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CONTENTS

MIDDLE EAST & SOUTH ASIA REVIEW

16 February Middle East and South Asia Review 1

INTERNATIONAL AFFAIRS

Inter-Arab Affairs

SPA Reports ICO Statement on Afghanistan 3
Reportage on 'Arab Cooperation Council' Summit 3
'Text' of 'Working Paper' *[Amman AL-DUSTUR 15 Feb]* 3
Egyptian Delegation Arrives *[INA]* 6
Jordan's Al-Khasawinah Cited *[Baghdad Radio]* 6
YAR President Arrives *[INA]* 6
Salih Makes Statement *[INA]* 7
Iraq's Ramadan Cited on Talks *[INA]* 7
'Private Meeting' Held *[INA]* 7
'Abd al-Ghani, Al-Baz Comment *[Baghdad Radio]* 7
Saddam Husayn Hosts Banquet *[INA]* 8
Salih, Mubarak Meet *[Sanaa Radio]* 8
Council Begins Work *[INA]* 8
'Cooperation Council' Approved *[INA]* 8
'Foundation Agreement' Signed *[INA]* 8
Council To Meet in Cairo *[MENA]* 8
Iraq Chosen First 'Chairman' *[MENA]* 9
Secretary General's Tasks Noted *[INA]* 9

Palestinian Affairs

USSR Reportedly Offers Syria-PLO Mediation *[KUNA]* 9
Hurani on Dialogue With U.S. *[London AL-TADAMUN 13 Feb]* 9
Hurani: Dialogue Up to U.S. *[London AL-SHARQ AL-AWSAT 9 Feb]* 11
Meeting Between PLO Envoy, U.S. 'Positive' *[London AL-SHARQ AL-AWSAT 10 Feb]* 11
'Arafat Reportedly Meets With Syria's Al-Shar' *[London AL-SHARQ AL-AWSAT 15 Feb]* 12
Khalaf Explains Israeli 'Plan' To Face PLO *[Abu Dhabi AL-ITTIHAD 13 Feb]* 12
Envoy to USSR Criticizes Hawatimah Remarks *[Kuwait AL-ANBA' 3 Feb]* 13
PLO Radio Warns Against Al-Quds 'Fabrications' *[Baghdad Voice of the PLO]* 14
PFLP-GC Popular Committees Issue Call *[Al-Quds Palestinian Arab Radio]* 15
Philippines Recognizes Independent Palestine *[Manila PHILIPPINE DAILY GLOBE 5 Feb]* 15

ARAB AFRICA

Algeria

Bendjedid, Al-Qadhdhafi Hold Talks in Oran *[APS]* 17
Ghazali Suffers Heart Attack in Marrakech *[AFP]* 17
Officials Deny Report *[Algiers Radio]* 17
Merbah Receives Somali Envoy, Siad Barre Message *[APS]* 17
GDR Minister Signs Cultural, Scientific Protocol *[APS]* 17

Egypt

Mubarak Interviewed on Foreign, Domestic Policy *[MENA]* 17

Morocco

Ambassador-Level Relations Formed With DPRK *[MAP]* 24
Bendjedid Visit 'Sealed' Reconciliation *[LE MATIN DU SAHARA 10 Feb]* 24

Sudan

'Raiding Tribesmen' From Chad Kill 96 in Darfur *[AFP]* 25
Southern Official on Relief Supply Problems *[Khartoum Radio]* 25
Relief of Torit Garrison Called 'Pipe Dream' *[Radio SPLA]* 25

Tunisia

Kuwaiti Education Minister 'Assaulted' in Tunis *[Tunis Radio]* 26

ARABIAN PENINSULA

Bahrain

UK's Waldegrave Arrives in Manama 15 Feb *[WAKH]* 27
Meets With Amir, Premier *[WAKH]* 27
Confers With Foreign Minister *[WAKH]* 27

Kuwait

Shaykh Sa'd: Some Issues With Iraq 'Outstanding' *[ARAB TIMES 14 Feb]* 27
Cabinet Aide on Iraq Ties, Lebanon Mediation *[London AL-SHARQ AL-AWSAT 14 Feb]* 27
Foreign Minister Welcomes Mubarak Visit *[KUNA]* 28

Qatar

Soviet Economic Delegation Departs 15 Feb *[WAKH]* 28
Report on Cooperation Talks *[WAKH]* 28

IRAQ

Saddam Receives Fahd Congratulations on Council *[INA]* 29
RCC Decree Amends National Assembly Election Law *[AL-THAWRAH 8 Feb]* 29
Ambassadorial Ties With Ethiopia To Resume *[INA]* 29
Cooperation Talks With Belgian Committee Begin *[INA]* 30
UN Observers Group Commander Arrives 16 Feb *[INA]* 30
CSSR Health Minister Departs for Kuwait *[INA]* 30
Presidential Decree Relieves Minister of State *[INA]* 30
AL-THAWRAH Cited on Syria's 'Subversive Course' *[INA]* 30

ISRAEL

Shamir Accepts Thatcher Invitation for Visit *[Jerusalem Radio]* 31
Thatcher Remarks Praised *[Tel Aviv Radio]* 31
Al-Husayni Holds 2d Meeting With Labor Officials *[MA'ARIV 16 Feb]* 32
Peres Supports Meetings *[Tel Aviv Radio]* 33
Meetings Have 'No Importance' *[Jerusalem Radio]* 33
Minister Weizman Discusses Talking to PLO
[Frankfurt/Main FRANKFURTER RUNDSCHAU 13 Feb] 33
Rabin on Arab Military Buildup, 'Uprising' *[Tel Aviv Radio]* 35
Egyptian Ambassador on Tabah Talks, Peace Issue *[Jerusalem International]* 36
Lubrani Denies Role in Death of Junblatt Aide *[Jerusalem Radio]* 36
Romanian Envoy Gives Messages to Sharon, Shamir *[HADASHOT 15 Feb]* 36
Religious Affairs Minister Visits Hungary *[Jerusalem Radio]* 36
Visit Concludes *[Jerusalem Radio]* 36
Delegation Goes to Hungary for Talks on Flights *[Jerusalem Radio]* 37
Sharon Urges Arrest of E. Jerusalem PLO Members *[THE JERUSALEM POST 15 Feb]* 37
Minister Olmert on Israeli Arabs' Violence *[Tel Aviv Radio]* 37
Settlers End Sit-In, Demand Tougher Measures *[Jerusalem Radio]* 37
Police Comptroller: Civil Guard Not Ready for War *[Jerusalem Radio]* 37
'High Level of Coordination' in Issuing Leaflets *[THE JERUSALEM POST 16 Feb]* 38
Conflicting Casualty Tolls Given for 'Uprising' *[HA'OLAM HAZE 15 Feb]* 38
Further on Incidents, Casualties in Territories 38
'Dozens' Held for Incitement *[Jerusalem Radio]* 38
2 Wounded in Disturbances *[Jerusalem Radio]* 38
Update on 15 Feb Incidents *[THE JERUSALEM POST 16 Feb]* 38

Scientists Say Ofeq-1 'Complete Success' *[THE JERUSALEM POST 16 Feb]* 39
Upgrade in U.S. Talks With PLO Supported *[AL-FAJR 13 Feb]* 40

JORDAN

Cabinet Approves Law Abrogating Moneychanging *[Amman Radio]* 41
Central Bank Official on Foreign Currency *[SAWT AL-SHA'B 12 Feb]* 41
Al-Rifa'i Gets Support on Moneychangers Decision *[PETRA-JNA]* 41
Moneychangers Decision 'Overwhelmingly Supported' *[JORDAN TIMES 12 Feb]* 41
Al-Khasawinah Urges 'Self-Reliance' Among Public *[JORDAN TIMES 13 Feb]* 42

LEBANON

U.S. Embassy 'Surrounded' by Lebanese Forces *[Beirut Radio]* 43
Army, Lebanese Forces Clash in East Beirut 43
Lebanese Forces Statement *[VOL]* 43
Cease-Fire Committee Formed *[RFL]* 43
'Awn Phones Sfayr *[VOL]* 43
Army, LF Agree on Timing *[VOL]* 43
LF Command Orders Cease-Fire *[RFL]* 43
Army Pledges Commitment *[VOL]* 43
Joint Committee To Supervise *[RFL]* 44
Army Controlled Areas Noted *[Beirut Radio]* 44
Intermittent Gunfire Heard *[RFL]* 44
LF, Army Renew Clashes *[VOM]* 44
Situation on Fighting Updated *[VOM]* 44
Fighting Denied *[RFL]* 44
Army Abducts Citizens *[RFL]* 45
Casualty Totals Noted *[VOL]* 45
25 Dead, 90 Wounded in Fighting *[VOL]* 45
Casualty Toll Updated *[VOL]* 45
Lebanese Forces Views Goals of Army Operation *[RFL]* 45
More Israeli Flights Over Beirut Noted *[VOL]* 46
East Beirut Reported Under Syrian Fire *[RFL]* 46
Military Concentrations Noted *[VOL]* 46
Missile Kills 5 in East Beirut *[RFL]* 46
Syrians Deny Shelling *[VOM]* 46
Gunfire in Southern Suburb *[VOL]* 46
Villagers Protest Hizballah's Return to South *[VOL]* 46
11th Brigade, PSP To Control Emplacements *[RFL]* 46

SYRIA

Al-Asad Receives CSSR Foreign Trade Minister *[Damascus TV]* 47
Khaddam Meets With Ba'th Party Officials, Others *[Damascus Radio]* 47
Ba'th Party Criticizes U.S.-ROK Exercises *[SANA]* 47

SOUTH ASIA

Afghanistan

Wakil Announces Curfew Imposed on Kabul *[Beijing XINHUA]* 48
Rebels Fire Rockets on Kabul 16 Feb; 7 Killed *[AFP]* 48
Kabul Reports 6 Killed 48
Salang Highway Reopened After Snow Closure *[Kabul Radio]* 48
Armed Forces Combat Operations 14-15 Feb *[Kabul Radio]* 48
Wakil Writes to UN on Geneva Accords Violations *[Kabul Radio]* 50
Wakil, UNGOMAP Head Discuss Withdrawal *[Kabul Radio]* 51
Rebels Divided on Interim Government Endorsement *[AFP]* 51
Ahmad Shah Interviewed on Transitional Government *[Jeddah 'UKAZ 9 Feb]* 52

India

USSR's Vorontsov Arrives for Talks on Afghanistan *[Delhi Radio]* 54
Holds Talks With Gandhi, Rao *[Delhi Radio]* 54

British Airways on Alert Following Bomb Threat *[AFP]* 54
Threats Taken 'Seriously' *[London PRESS ASSOCIATION]* 54
Assam Security Tightened Before Proposed Strike *[Delhi Radio]* 55
Strike Paralyzes Normal Life *[Delhi Radio]* 55
2 Killed, 5 Injured in Bomb Blast in Punjab *[Delhi Radio]* 56

Iran

Reaction to Salman Rushdie Book Continues 56
Hashemi-Rafsanjani Address *[Tehran Radio]* 56
UK's Howe 'Cautious' *[IRNA]* 57
Tehran Marchers Threaten Force *[Tehran International]* 57
Envoy Summoned *[London PRESS ASSOCIATION]* 57
Embassy Staff Increase Halted *[London PRESS ASSOCIATION]* 58
UK Muslims Support Edict *[IRNA]* 59
UK Press on Edict *[IRNA]* 60
Mohtashemi on 'Sordid Plot' *[IRNA]* 60
Shi'ite Leader Comments *[Tehran Radio]* 60
Majlis Deputies Condemn Rushdie *[Tehran TV]* 61
Minorities Express 'Fury' *[IRNA]* 61
Media Urged To Act *[Tehran TV]* 61
Press on 'Death Sentence' *[IRNA]* 62
IRNA on Nationwide Reaction 62
Council Urges Denunciation *[IRNA]* 63
Papal Ban Urged *[IRNA]* 63
Sunni Clergy To Wear Shrouds *[Tehran Radio]* 63
Bounty on Rushdie Increased *[Tehran Radio]* 64
Commentary on 'Satanic Verses' *[Tehran Radio]* 64
Anti-Muslim 'Conspiracy' *[Tehran Radio]* 65
Musavi, Velayati on Narcotics, UN Talks *[IRNA]* 66
Amnestied Prisoners Hold News Conference *[IRNA]* 66
240 More Prisoners Released Under Amnesty *[Tehran Radio]* 66
President Khamene'i To Visit SFRY, Romania *[IRNA]* 67
Larijani on Relations With Socialist Countries *[Budapest MAGYAR HIRLAP 9 Feb]* 67
London TV Interviews Mohtashemi, Larijani, Yazdi 68
Mo'ayeri Returns From Visit to Pakistan *[Tehran TV]* 69
Hashemi-Rafsanjani Addresses Bazaar Merchants *[Tehran Radio]* 70
Islamic Conference Urges Participation *[IRNA]* 70
Civil Rights Group Urges Free Political Activity *[IRNA]* 70

Pakistan

U.S., British Envoys Summoned Over Rushdie Book *[AFP]* 71
Scholars See 'Zionist Conspiracy' in Rushdie Book *[Islamabad Radio]* 71
Curfew Lifted From Faisalabad Areas 15 Feb *[Islamabad Radio]* 72
Ishaq Khan, Bhutto Hail Soviet Withdrawal *[Islamabad Radio]* 72
Muslim League Leader Charged With Murder *[AFP]* 72
Italian Daily Interviews Benazir Bhutto *[Rome LA REPUBBLICA 12-13 Feb]* 73
President on Relations With Turkey, Nuclear Arms *[Istanbul CUMHURIYET 10 Feb]* 74

Sri Lanka

Reportage on Election, Initial Results 75
Violence Reported *[AFP]* 75
Curfew Declared *[AFP]* 76
LTTE: Elections 'Farce' *[AFP]* 76
UNP Has 53.1 Percent *[Delhi Radio]* 76

16 February Middle East and South Asia Review

LD1602144189 [Editorial Report]

Lebanon

"Guarded calm" prevailed in East Beirut 16 February after the Lebanese Army and Lebanese Forces (LF) agreed to a cease-fire the previous afternoon, Voice of Lebanon radio reported. Army and LF representatives met at the Defense Ministry to discuss ways of consolidating the cease-fire. The radio cited estimates that over 40 people were killed and more than 150 wounded in the recent fighting, during which grave material damage was inflicted on property as a result of artillery bombardments.

An LF statement carried by the clandestine Radio Free Lebanon had earlier accused the Army of attempting to take over East Beirut in order to "isolate" the LF and establish "Greater Beirut" under the supervision of joint forces from the Lebanese and Syrian armies. The LF will "firmly fight this new conspiracy," which is unfortunately being concocted by those to whom the LF once gave full support, the statement added.

On the outcome of the fighting, the clandestine Voice of the Mountain reported that the Army gained control of "the southern half of the eastern area," with the exception of the LF headquarters in Al-Karantina and "pockets" in 'Ayn al-Rummanah. However, the LF are in control of the northern half, from Juniyah to Jubayl, the radio said.

Beirut radio stated that the Army captured or destroyed three LF barracks and took control of several areas in or near East Beirut, as well as the Bikfayya region further east. However, LF militiamen have surrounded General Michel 'Awn's house and the U.S. Embassy building in 'Awkar, the radio subsequently noted.

Establishment of Arab Cooperation Council

Iraqi President Saddam Husayn, Egyptian President Husni Mubarak, Jordanian King Husayn, and YAR President Colonel 'Ali 'Abdallah Salih signed an agreement in Baghdad 16 February providing for the establishment of an "Arab Cooperation Council" (ACC), INA reported. The agreement regulates economic relations between the four countries and paves the way for "subsequent joint pan-Arab action steps." The agency also noted that the ACC will be considered as an official Arab organization that adheres to the Arab League Charter and collective Arab defense pact.

Jordanian officials cited by the JORDAN TIMES said the ACC will seek to promote economic integration among the four states by lowering tariff barriers, developing transport links, merging the separate national airlines, and establishing a regional development fund.

In an interview reported by Jordan's AL-RA'Y, Iraqi Foreign Minister Tariq 'Aziz stated that other Arab countries will be able to join the ACC, as it is established on a pan-Arab basis and does not require unified political systems. However, he stressed that no country in political conflict with the group can join it, adding that there are no attempts to enable Syria to join because the latter does not maintain relations with Iraq and Egypt.

Amman's AL-DUSTUR published a draft proposal for the ACC constitution which includes a clause stipulating that other Arab states seeking membership must have the approval of two thirds of the member states.

Egypt

In an interview with AL-MUSAWWAR cited by MENA, President Mubarak stressed that the ACC is primarily economic rather than political. Political action in the Arab arena should be aimed at consolidating solidarity among all the states, not at establishing axes, he stressed.

On the Tabah issue, Mubarak said he has asked the Egyptian negotiating team to adhere to three principles: Egyptian sovereignty over Tabah is not a subject for debate; Israelis will not be able to enter Tabah without passports; Egypt will pay a "reasonable" sum for the installations in Tabah but not more. On this last point, he indicated that the Israelis are demanding compensation that is over twice the real value of the tourist installations. If there is no agreement on the issue and the Israelis demolish the hotel, this will provide "clear proof of Israel's ill will," he added.

Mubarak also told AL-MUSAWWAR that he does not expect "miracles" from the new U.S. President, and does not expect a tilt toward the Arab position. However, he expressed hope that the Bush Administration will take active steps to promote the Middle East peace process, playing the role of a partner not a "postman."

Maghreb Summit

The Maghreb summit will begin 16 February after an "informal" meeting the previous day in which the five heads of state were able to harmonize positions, APS reported.

Iran

Rushdie Affair—Hassan Sane'i, head of a relief agency established to help the poor, announced that a million dollars has been set aside to reward any foreigner who carries out Ayatollah Ruhollah Khomeyni's death sentence against Salman Rushdie, author of "The Satanic Verses," IRNA reported. Any Iranian who carries out the order will receive 200 million rials, worth some $3 million, Sane'i promised.

Meanwhile, "over 10,000 angry demonstrators" gathered outside the British Embassy to protest the book's publication in Britain, according to IRNA. While the issue has thus far had "no direct impact" on Iranian-British relations, the agency said, Britain could pay "a heavy price for ignoring the strong sentiments of over one billion Muslims."

Among much other Iranian comment on the affair, Interior Minister 'Ali Akbar Mohtashemi held U.S. and British intelligence services "directly responsible" for publishing the book as part of a "new war against Islam," according to IRNA.

In a speech to the Majlis broadcast by Tehran radio, Speaker 'Ali Akbar Hashemi-Rafsanjani claimed that the publication of the book was "an organized and planned effort" against "all that is sacred in Islam."

Amnesty—Tehran radio announced that 240 prisoners were released 16 February in accordance with Khomeyni's amnesty decree.

Afghanistan

Mujahidin groups attending the shura (consultative council) in Rawalpindi presented a 28-member "government" headed by Ahmad Shah, a shura spokesman disclosed in a statement cited by AFP. However, the agency noted that the shura is still being boycotted by the Iran-based factions and by Sibghatullah Mojaddedi, chairman of the seven-party alliance.

A mujahidin military commander told AFP that military unity among mujahidin forces besieging Kabul is more important than the current deliberations in the shura, and he noted that there is "very little" participation by military commanders in the council.

Meanwhile, a Soviet Government statement cited by TASS affirmed that there is "not a single Soviet soldier left" in Afghanistan.

An Afghan Government statement broadcast by Kabul radio said that in the wake of the Soviet withdrawal, "violations" of the Geneva Accords by Pakistan and the United States should be investigated "responsibly and wisely." The statement denounced the formation of a "so-called government" by the opposition as part of moves by "some Pakistani leaders" to carry out their "filthy plots to annex Afghanistan under the cover of a confederation."

Inter-Arab Affairs

SPA Reports ICO Statement on Afghanistan

LD1602091589 Riyadh SPA in Arabic 0727 GMT 16 Feb 89

[Text] Jeddah, 16 Feb (SPA)—The ICO has reiterated its confidence in the Afghan mujahidin and the Afghan people to bring about peace in their country and to set up a broadly based government able to repopulate and build up Afghanistan. In a statement issued today, the ICO described the withdrawal of Soviet forces from Afghanistan as a victory for the Afghan people and the Afghan jihad, which went on for 9 years of continuous struggle to regain their freedom. The statement pointed out that the Islamic nation, which has given political and moral support to the Afghan jihad in its confrontation with the huge military power of a superpower, is overwhelmed with happiness.

In its statement, the ICO said that the Afghan people have added a new chapter to the history of Islam and added: They have affirmed with irrefutable proof that there is no power on earth which can deprive Muslims of their inalienable rights, as long as they are united and have faith in God as well as in the righteousness of their cause. The ICO calls on the international community to respond to the needs of the Afghan people during this period.

Reportage on 'Arab Cooperation Council' Summit

'Text' of 'Working Paper'

JN1502134889 Amman AL-DUSTUR in Arabic 15 Feb 89 p 11

["Text" of the working paper presented by one of the Arab delegations to the prime ministers' meeting in Amman on 14 February]

[Text] Whereas the Arab nation, with its ancient and rich cultural heritage and its big role in building the edifice of human civilization, cherishes a strong and legitimate aspiration for cooperation, solidarity, and joint action in all fields prompted by a profound yearning for unity and a desire to assert its national characteristics and distinguished cultural identity which have been firmly entrenched through the ages, safeguard its security, serve its legitimate interests, take firm steps toward progress and advancement, and consolidate its constructive and positive world role in serving the causes of peace, security, progress, and fruitful, equal cooperation among world nations;

Whereas the Arab nation had, in modern history, witnessed several experiments of joint action, cooperation, and solidarity, achieved certain forms of unity, and learned useful lessons from the positive and negative aspects of those experiments;

And, whereas the foremost of these lessons is cooperation in building the foundations for strengthening all forms of spiritual, cultural, and practical ties among the citizens of the Arab states, a cooperation which occupies a central place in any continuous, persistent, and serious endeavor for joint action and creates the firm practical bases for advancement to higher levels and wider horizons toward achieving the Arab nation's sublime objective of unity as circumstances and practical possibilities permit;

Whereas this constructive, realistic trend is harmonious with present world trends toward creating economic communities which ensure for their member states better conditions to safeguard their interests and achieve economic development and progress;

Believing that cooperation among the Arab states in these fields is of special importance due to the threats to which Arab national security has been, and still is, exposed, threats which are of a security, political, economic, and cultural nature as illustrated by the experiences of the Iranian aggression on Iraq and the continuous Israeli threat to the Arab nation;

Proceeding from the reality that the victory which was achieved by Iraq over the Iranian aggression was, essentially, the fruit of Arab awareness of the common requirements and conditions for pan-Arab unity and of the fact that the maintenance of security, peace, and stability in the entire region calls for strengthening this awareness and firmly entrenching it through actual cooperation, coordination, and solidarity on the basis of the wholesomeness of Arab national security and the wholesomeness of its requirements and conditions;

Considering the similar circumstances of the Hashemite Kingdom of Jordan, the Republic of Iraq, the Arab Republic of Egypt, and the Yemen Arab Republic in the various fields, and out of these states' faith in the aforementioned principles and values and in expression of their profound desire to find a practical and realistic means to strengthen the formulas of cooperation and to further develop and promote this cooperation, which continued between them for several years and bore important fruits, as circumstances and capabilities permitted, at every stage until it reached the highest levels of solidarity and joint action;

Feeling their responsibility toward strengthening the bases of Arab national security against any present and future threats to which it may be exposed;

And, in accordance with what was agreed upon at the historic meeting which was held in Baghdad among His Majesty King Husayn ibn Talal, king of the Hashemite Kingdom of Jordan; His Excellency Saddam Husayn, president of the Republic of Iraq; His Excellency Muhammad Husni Mubarak, president of the Arab

Republic of Egypt; and His Excellency 'Ali 'Abdallah Salih, president of the Yemen Arab Republic on 15-16 February 1989, it has been decided, with God's blessing, to agree on the following:

Foundation

Article I: The Arab Cooperation Council [Majlis al-Tadamun al-'Arabi] shall be formed comprising the Hashemite Kingdom of Jordan, the Republic of Iraq, the Arab Republic of Egypt, and the Yemen Arab Republic in accordance with the provisions of this agreement. The ACC shall be considered one of the organizations of the Arab nation, adhering to the Charter of the League of Arab States, the Treaty of Joint Defense and Economic Cooperation, and the institutions and organizations stemming from the League of Arab States.

Objectives

Article II: The ACC aims at:

1. Achieving the highest levels of coordination, cooperation, integration, and solidarity among the member states and promoting these ties according to circumstances, capabilities, and experiences, especially in the following fields:

a. Economy, finance, and customs

b. Industry, agriculture, and commerce

c. Movement and investment of capital

d. Transport, communications, and telecommunications

e. Scientific research and the exchange of expertise

f. Education and culture

g. Social, health, and tourist affairs

h. Labor, movement, and residence

2. Endeavoring to achieve the Arab common market and Arab economic unity.

3. Strengthening and developing joint Arab action to bolster Arab ties.

Method of Achieving Objectives

Article III: The ACC shall work toward the achievement of its objectives through plans and practical measures, including whatever legislation it might consider issuing, amending, or standardizing in the various fields.

Membership

Article IV: 1. Membership in the ACC shall be open to every Arab state wishing to join it.

2. Membership in the ACC shall be with the approval of two thirds of the member states, including the founding members.

ACC Organizations

Article V: The ACC shall consist of the following organizations:

1. The Supreme Council

2. The Ministerial Council

3. The General Secretariat

The Supreme Council

Article VI: The Supreme Council, which is the highest organization, shall consist of the heads of the member states.

Supreme Council Powers

Article VII: The Supreme Council shall exercise the following powers:

1. Drawing up the ACC's higher policies.

2. Making the necessary decisions on the recommendations submitted by the Ministerial Council.

3. Empowering the Ministerial Council with any matter falling within its jurisdictions and functions.

4. Approving the procedures governing its work and their amendments.

5. Appointing the ACC's secretary general.

6. Creating any other organizations and standing specialized committees whenever necessary.

Supreme Council Meetings

Article VIII:

1. The Supreme Council shall hold an ordinary meeting once a year in one of the member states on a rotational basis. The Supreme Council shall be chaired by the head of the host state for one full year term.

2. Extraordinary meetings may be held at the invitation of the Supreme Council chairman or by a proposal from one of the member states, seconded by at least one other member state. The extraordinary meetings shall be held in the state whose head chairs the Supreme Council.

3. The convening of the Supreme Council meetings shall be deemed correct by the attendance of the majority of member states.

The Ministerial Council

Article IX: The Ministerial Council shall consist of the heads of government of the member states or their representatives.

Ministerial Council Powers

Article X: The Ministerial Council shall exercise the following powers:

1. Studying affairs and issues related to matters that fall within its jurisdiction.

2. Submitting to the Supreme Council plans, proposals, and recommendations concerning the achievement of the ACC's objectives.

3. Taking the necessary practical measures to implement the Supreme Council's decisions.

4. Examining any issue on cooperation, and whenever necessary referring it to temporary specialized committees to study it and present the appropriate proposals on it.

5. Drafting the rules governing its work procedures and referring them to the Supreme Council for approval and proposing any amendments to them when necessary.

6. Approving and amending the General Secretariat's administrative and financial systems through a decision by the majority of the member states which shall be binding on everyone.

7. Examining the secretary general's reports concerning the ACC's work.

8. Discussing and approving the General Secretariat's budget and final accounts report as well as the reports on the secretariat's administrative and financial conditions.

9. Forming temporary technical or ministerial committees as necessitated by its work.

Ministerial Council Meetings

Article XI: The Ministerial Council shall hold an ordinary meeting once every 6 months in the member state chairing the Supreme Council. The Ministerial Council shall be chaired by that state's head of government or his representative.

2. The chairman of the Ministerial Council may call extraordinary meetings on the pattern of the ordinary meetings referred to in Paragraph 1 of this article.

3. The convening of the Ministerial Council meetings shall be deemed correct by the attendance of the majority of member states.

Adoption of Decisions

Article XII: When adopting decisions in all ACC organizations, the member states shall strive to achieve unanimity and accord among themselves. When this is not possible, decisions shall be adopted on the basis of a majority vote of the member states. The decisions shall be binding and acceptable with the exception of the condition provided for in Paragraph 6 of Article X of this agreement.

The General Secretariat

Article XIII:

1. The ACC shall have a General Secretariat based in Amman, headed by a secretary general and consisting of the necessary number of employees.

2. The Supreme Council shall appoint the secretary general from the citizens of the member states on the basis of personal qualitications and faith in the ACC's objectives. The appointment, which will be for 2 years, shall be renewable for two terms only.

3. The General Secretariat employees shall be appointed from the citizens of the member states on the basis of their personal qualifications and faith in the ACC's objectives.

4. The secretary general and the senior employees of the General Secretariat shall enjoy the necessary immunities, privileges, and facilities to enable them to perform their duties in the headquarters state as well as the member states.

The Secretary General's Tasks and Powers

Article XIV:

1. The secretary general is the highest chief executive of the ACC's General Secretariat. He is directly responsible to the Ministerial Council for all the General Secretariat's functions and good performance.

2. For the fulfillment of his tasks, the secretary general shall enjoy the following powers:

a. Following up implementation of the decisions adopted by the Supreme Council and the Ministerial Council.

b. Preparing the necessary reports on the ACC's work and submitting them to the Ministerial Council and the Supreme Council.

c. Drafting the agenda of the Ministerial Council.

d. Preparing the ACC's draft budget and final accounts report.

e. Appointing General Secretariat employees.

f. Proposing administrative and financial systems for the General Secretariat and submitting them to the Ministerial Council.

The Headquarters Agreement

Article XV: The headquarters agreement shall be concluded between the secretary general, acting on behalf of the ACC, and the host state.

The Budget

Article XVI: The General Secretariat shall have an annual budget to which the member states shall contribute equally.

Final Rules

Article XVII:

1. This agreement shall go into force and become valid as of the date of its ratification by the signatory states in accordance with existing constitutional procedures.

2. This agreement shall be binding on the states which join the ACC in accordance with the provisions of Article IV from the date of depositing the instrument of their membership with the ACC General Secretariat.

Egyptian Delegation Arrives

JN1502135889 Baghdad INA in Arabic 1310 GMT 15 Feb 89

[Text] Baghdad, 15 Feb (INA)—Egyptian President Muhammad Husni Mubarak arrived here this afternoon to participate in the quadripartite Arab summit.

His excellency the president was accorded an official and popular welcome. His Excellency President Saddam Husayn led those who welcomed the Egyptian president upon arrival. Also on hand to receive the Egyptian president were 'Izzat Ibrahim, RCC vice chairman; Taha Yasin Ramadan, RCC member and first deputy prime minister; Taha Muhyi al-Din Ma'ruf, RCC member and vice president; and the Iraqi ambassador to Egypt.

His Excellency President Saddam Husayn and his guest Muhammad Husni Mubarak then walked to the dais where both the Egyptian and Iraqi national anthems were played. Afterward, the two presidents reviewed the guards of honor while President Muhammad Husni Mubarak was accorded a 21-gun salute.

His Excellency President Saddam Husayn accompanied President Saddam Husayn in an official motorcade. They waved to the tumultuous masses who were lining the streets leading to the place of residence of President Muhammad Husni Mubarak. The masses were chanting for both Presidents Saddam Husayn and Muhammad Husni Mubarak and blessing the fraternal quadripartite meeting which will be held in Baghdad, the cradle of glory and civilization.

The Egyptian delegation comprises Prime Minister Dr 'Atif Sidqi; Dr 'Ismat 'Abd al-Majid, deputy prime minister and foreign minister; Safwat al-Sharif, information minister; and Dr Usamah al-Baz, first under secretary of the Foreign Ministry.

Jordan's Al-Khasawinah Cited

JN1502144789 Baghdad Voice of the Masses in Arabic 1300 GMT 15 Feb 89

[Text] Jordanian Information Minister Dr Hani al-Khasawinah has said that the quadripartite Arab summit is a nucleus representing the materialization of the aspirations cherished by our glorious Arab nation and added that this nucleus will be a mainstay of support for every Arab citizen and for every Arab state.

In a statement to Baghdad radio's correspondent today, Dr Hani added that this summit will revive the spirit of hope entertained by Arabs. He said that the summit involving Iraq, Egypt, the YAR, and Jordan is a fraternal meeting permeated by a sense of trust and affection binding the leaders of these states. He said that this summit follows a successful experience in bilateral relations. He affirmed that the quadripartite summit will give the Arab nation a historic entity that will be a source of support for the nation and its soul and for each Arab state.

YAR President Arrives

JN1502161189 Baghdad INA in Arabic 1458 GMT 15 Feb 89

[Text] Baghdad, 15 Feb (INA)—YAR President Colonel 'Ali 'Abdallah Salih arrived here this afternoon heading a delegation to participate in the quadripartite summit, which will be held tomorrow, Thursday.

His excellency the president was accorded a great official and popular reception. His Excellency President Saddam Husayn led those who welcomed the guest upon arrival. Also on hand to welcome the YAR president were Taha Yasin Ramadan, RCC member and first deputy prime minister; Taha Muhyi al-Din Ma'ruf, RCC member and vice president; the RCC members; cabinet ministers; and the YAR Embassy staff in Baghdad.

Then, His Excellency President Saddam Husayn and his guest, President 'Ali 'Abdallah Salih, headed for the dais where the national anthems of both the YAR and Iraq were played. Afterward, the two presidents reviewed the guards of honor while President 'Ali 'Abdallah Salih was accorded a 21-gun salute.

Afterward, His Excellency President Saddam Husayn accompanied President 'Ali 'Abdallah Salih in a convertible car in an official motorcade during which they waved

to the large crowds who lined the streets leading to the place of residence of President 'Ali 'Abdallah Salih. The masses were greeting the two presidents, chanting slogans of welcome, and blessing the borthers' quadripartite Baghdad summit, the city of victory and peace.

The delegation accompanying President 'Ali 'Abdallah Salih comprises 'Abd al-Karim al-Iryani, deputy prime minister and foreign minister; 'Abdallah Husayn al-Ahmar, Consultative Council member; Isma'il al-Wazir, minister of legal and cabinet affairs; 'Abd al-Wahhab Mahmud, minister of economy, supply, and trade; and Yahya Hasan al-'Arashi, minister of state for unity affairs.

Salih Makes Statement

JN1502163589 Baghdad INA in English 1610 GMT 15 Feb 89

[Excerpt] Baghdad, Feb 15, INA—[Passage omitted] In a statement to INA on arrival, President Salih said the Arab economic meeting constitutes an advanced practical step along the path of boosting the march of Arab economic integration, joint Arab action and achieving Arab unity.

President Salih added that the Baghdad Arab summit culminates the good efforts of joint Arab action that contributed to ripening the idea of this meeting stressing that the meeting would be a sincere interpretation for the Arab masses aspirations as it is a serious attempt of pan-Arab action.

President Salih further said that the constituent statute to be announced in Baghdad would enhance the principles proclaimed on the fact that all Arab countries could joint it.

"It is not a political alliance, axis or camp inside the one Arab nation. The meeting is an advanced addition to the credit of joint Arab action and the nucleus for an effective Arab economic integration realizing progress and welfare for the Arab nation", President Salih concluded.

Iraq's Ramadan Cited on Talks

JN1502173189 Baghdad INA in English 1625 GMT 15 Feb 89

[Text] Baghdad, Feb 15, INA—Member of the Revolution Command Council and First Deputy Premier Taha Yasin Ramadan confirmed that meetings of heads of state [as received] of Iraq, Jordan, Egypt, and Yemen Arab Republic held in Amman were very positive.

In a statement he gave to IRAQI NEWS AGENCY this afternoon he said that the meeting reached the final unified formula for Arab cooperation between the four Arab countries and this formula will be referred to the quadripartite summit of these countries leaders that would be held in Baghdad to be approved.

Mr Ramadan described the final formula of the cooperation as a new Arab work in terms of its style and would lay down strong and multi foundations for a more comprehensive Arab action achieving progress and development of the arab nation. He said the quadruple cooperation was for service of the Arab brethren throughout the entire Arab arena.

Mr Ramadan expressed his happiness for reaching the final formula and said it had reflected the serious keenness of the four Arab countries on reaching an integrated and practical formula contributing to developing the economic cooperation among the sisterly countries.

At the conclusion of his statement, the first deputy premier lauded the positive atmosphere that prevailed at the meetings which confirmed the joint understanding among the participants in a way harmonious with directives of leaders of the four Arab countries on continuing the serious work for finding new formulas to enhance the nature of the developing relations among the sisterly countries.

'Private Meeting' Held

JN1502170189 Baghdad INA in Arabic 1640 GMT 15 Feb 89

[Text] Baghdad, 15 Feb (INA)—His Excellency President Saddam Husayn and his brother leaders—His Majesty King Husayn of the Hashemite Kingdom of Jordan, His Excellency President Muhammad Husni Mubarak of Egypt, and YAR President Colonel 'Ali 'Abdallah Salih—held a private meeting here this afternoon.

During the meeting, the leaders agreed on the details of the agenda of the first quadripartite summit and the arrangements for it. They also agreed to resume the meeting at an expanded session to be attended by the delegations of the four countries tomorrow morning.

'Abd al-Ghani, Al-Baz Comment

JN1502200589 Baghdad Domestic Service in Arabic 1900 GMT 15 Feb 89

[Text] YAR Prime Minister 'Abd al-'Aziz 'Abd al-Ghani has described the first quadripartite meeting as an advanced step to serve joint Arab action—a step that will have its impact on the march of the four Arab states: Iraq, Egypt, Jordan, and the YAR.

In a statement to INA, 'Abd al-Ghani said that he is very optimistic that this gigantic step will lead to the realization of integration and coordination among the four Arab states. He added that the grouping is a guarantee for coordination and the enhancement of integration among the four Arab states.

For his part, Usamah al-Baz, political adviser to the Egyptian president and head of the latter's office, has affirmed that the first quadripartite summit represents a step on the road of Arab unity. In a statement to INA

following the private meeting by the Arab leaders in Baghdad this evening, Al-Baz said that the four leaders' summit, which began today, will culminate in the signing of a document that will constitute a great success for the entire Arab nation, not only for the Arab countries that will sign it.

Al-Baz asserted that the Arab leaders will benefit from previous unity experiences, beginning with the Egyptian-Syrian unity of 1958. He added: Hence, this new move represents a new pattern of unity that will benefit from previous experiences and use them to head toward the future. He said: Through this, the Arab states will be able to bring about an interaction and coordination in agricultural, industrial, and specialized fields and in the private, public, mixed, and cooperative sectors.

Al-Baz voiced hope that this unionist step will lead to the realization of the will of the Arab masses, who are looking forward to this pioneering experience.

Saddam Husayn Hosts Banquet

JN1502203589 Baghdad INA in Arabic 2000 GMT 15 Feb 89

[Text] Baghdad, 15 Feb (INA)—His Excellency President Saddam Husayn has received his brother leaders, His Majesty King Husayn of the Hashemite Kingdom of Jordan, His Excellency President Muhammad Husni Mubarak of Egypt, His Excellency YAR President 'Ali 'Abdallah Salih, and their delegations.

His Excellency President Saddam Husayn hosted a great dinner banquet in honor of his brothers, the three Arab leaders, and their delegations.

The banquet was attended by RCC Vice Chairman 'Izzat Ibrahim; Taha Yasin Ramadan, RCC member and first deputy prime minister; Taha Muhyi al-Din Ma'ruf, RCC member and vice president; the RCC members; cabinet ministers; and senior state officials.

Salih, Mubarak Meet

JN1602080089 Sanaa Domestic Service in Arabic 0430 GMT 16 Feb 89

[Text] Yesterday, brother leaders Colonel 'Ali 'Abdallah Salih, president of the Republic, commander in chief of the Armed Forces, and secretary general of the General People's Congress, and Muhammad Husni Mubarak, president of the Arab Republic of Egypt, met on the sidelines of the quadripartite summit. The two leaders exchanged views on the summit's work and the latest developments in the Arab arena.

Council Begins Work

JN1602091589 Baghdad INA in Arabic 0830 GMT 16 Feb 89

[Text] Baghdad, 16 Feb (INA)—The work of the first summit of the Arab Cooperation Council began here a short while ago.

The Arab leaders concluded their first session at noon today. During their expanded session, which was attended by the prime ministers, ministers, and a number of senior officials in the four Arab countries, King Husayn and Presidents Saddam Husayn, Muhammad Husni Mubarak, and 'Ali 'Abdallah Salih discussed the foundation agreement of the Arab Cooperation Council.

'Cooperation Council' Approved

JN1602102089 Baghdad INA in Arabic 0932 GMT 16 Feb 89

[Text] Baghdad, 16 Feb (INA)—The four leaders of Iraq, Egypt, Jordan, and Yemen have agreed to name cooperation among their countries "the Arab Cooperation Council". The first article of the agreement on establishing the Council approved considering this Council as one of the Arab nation's organizations which adheres to the Arab League charter, the Collective Arab Defense Pact, economic cooperation, and to the institutions and organizations emanating from the Arab League. The Council will establish relations of cooperation with Arab and international groupings.

'Foundation Agreement' Signed

JN1602111889 Baghdad INA in Arabic 1052 GMT 16 Feb 89

[Text] Baghdad, 16 Feb (INA)—The Arab Cooperation Council [ACC] leaders signed the ACC foundation agreement here this afternoon.

The signing of the agreement took place during a second meeting held this afternoon by the ACC leaders His Majesty King Husayn of Jordan, Iraqi President Saddam Husayn, Egyptian President Muhammad Husni Mubarak, and YAR President Colonel 'Ali 'Abdallah Salih.

Thus, the four Arab countries—Jordan, Iraq, Egypt, and the YAR—linked themselves to an Arab cooperation agreement which regulates their economic relations as a key opening to subsequent joint pan-Arab action steps.

Council To Meet in Cairo

NC1602110689 Cairo MENA in Arabic 1053 GMT 16 Feb 89

[Text] Baghdad, 16 Feb (MENA)—MENA has learned that the first meeting of the Higher Committee of the Arab Cooperation Council, comprising the leaders of the four member countries—Egypt, Iraq, Jordan, and the YAR—will be held in Cairo after the signing of the

agreement relating to the declaration of this Council. It should be recalled that the first chairman of this Higher Committee will be named at this meeting.

Four Arab leaders—Muhammad Husni Mubarak, King Husayn, Saddam Husayn, and 'Ali 'Abdallah Salih, this afternoon signed the agreement on the establishment of the Arab Cooperation Council, which includes Egypt, Jordan, Iraq, and the YAR.

Iraq Chosen First 'Chairman'

NC1602123389 Cairo MENA in Arabic 1137 GMT 16 Feb 89

[Text] Baghdad, 16 Feb (MENA)—It has been officially decided that Iraq will be the first chairman of the first session of the Arab Cooperation Council [ACC].

According to Article 8 of the Council agreement, the chairmanship of the Council meetings, which will be held once a year in one of the member countries, will go to the leader of the host country. Thus President Saddam Husayn has become chairman of the first ACC session, which will last one year.

Secretary General's Tasks Noted

JN1602133589 Baghdad INA in English 1245 GMT 16 Feb 89

[Text] Baghdad, Feb. 16, INA—The agreement on founding the Arab Cooperation Council [ACC] defined several tasks for the council's secretary general.

According to that, the secretary general undertakes the tasks of follow-up implementation of resolutions of the Supreme and Ministerial Committees preparations of reports of the council to be referred to the two mentioned committees, preparation of the ministerial committee's draft agenda, and budget and final accounts of the council.

The secretary general can propose administrative and financial procedures and refer them to the Ministerial Committee and appointing the officials and ending their services.

Palestinian Affairs

USSR Reportedly Offers Syria-PLO Mediation

LD1602101189 Kuwait KUNA in English 0830 GMT 16 Feb 89

[Text] Kuwait, Feb 16 (KUNA)—The Soviet Union is offering to mediate between Syria and the Palestine Liberation Organization (PLO), according to PLO's Executive Committee member 'Abdallah Hurani.

Hurani was quoted by the Kuwaiti daily "AL-WATAN", published here today, as saying that information reaching the PLO from Soviet sources indicated that they had approached Syria in this regard.

He quoted the Soviet sources as saying that Syria had expressed willingness if the PLO had requested the opening of dialogue between the two sides.

"But the question is not who will request dialogue. Most important is to show good will that encourages continuity of dialogue in order not to halt it half-way as happened in several occasions," Hurani told the paper.

"There should be guarantees that will ensure the success of dialogue. Our brothers in Syria have to express their good intention towards the organization to pave the way for establishing future relations," he added.

Hurani said all Arab countries had recognized the Palestinian state except Syria.

"It is surprising to hear Syria welcomes Egypt's recognition of the Palestinian state and considers it a positive step. Why (?doesn't) Syria follow suit," the PLO official said.

He said Syria's recognition would open horizons for serious dialogue.

However, Hurani went on to say: "Anyhow the organization is always ready for consultation and coordination on condition that the other side shares the same desire in reaching a formula for dialogue."

He disclosed that Lebanese Premier Salim al-Huss and parliament's speaker Husayn al-Husayni had refused to meet PLO Chairman Yasir 'Arafat in Tunis during their stay there for a meeting with the Arab League's Committee on the Lebanese question.

"We can not separate this from the Syrian stand," Hurani said indicating the move was ordered by Syria.

"It is impossible to discuss the Lebanese issue without taking into consideration the Palestinian issue in Lebanon," he added.

Hurani on Dialogue With U.S.

PM1602091589 London AL-TADAMUN in Arabic 13 Feb 89 pp 19-20

[Interview with PLO Executive Committee member 'Abdallah Hurani by Salih Zaytun in Doha; date not given]

[Excerpts] It was natural to begin the interview by talking about the task assigned to him, which is dialogue with the United States, so I first asked him about the second round of talks, which was supposed to be held before the end of former U.S. President Reagan's term of office.

[Hurani] So far no date has been set for the resumption of dialogue with the United States, but it is hoped that the dialogue will take a serious course now that the Bush Administration has taken over. The first meeting, held 16 December, was an event in itself, but the two sides only expressed their views.

[Zaytun] Do you mean that what happened in Tunis was not a dialogue?

[Hurani] It was not a dialogue in the real sense of the word, because we did not have discussions. Each side expressed its views on various issues.

[Zaytun] But reports that the U.S. side imposed certain conditions on the PLO lead one to believe that it was indeed a dialogue.

[Hurani] Much has been said about U.S. conditions, but the truth is that there were no conditions. The U.S. side, however, expressed its well-known views on peace, an international peace conference, dialogue, and relations with Israel and their being unaffected by the dialogue with the PLO, and it also repeated its well-known position on the question of terrorism.

[Zaytun] What was the Palestinian answer?

[Hurani] The Palestinian delegation in turn explained its own understanding of peace and the international conference. It emphasized that negotiations should be held under UN supervision in the presence of all parties, including the PLO, as well as the five permanent members of the UN Security Council. We reaffirmed the Palestinian people's rights, including their right to an independent state, and stressed the importance of continuing the intifadah [uprising] and the need to stop Israeli repression and terrorism against our people at home and abroad. [passage omitted]

[Zaytun] Now that the dialogue has started and is expected to be resumed with the Bush administration within weeks, what do you expect from it?

[Hurani] It is difficult at this point to say what we expect but, anyway, we do expect a hard, difficult, and long dialogue. True, the United States has agreed to have a dialogue with the PLO, but it has not accepted Palestinian demands nor the requirements of the Palestinian struggle. The positions of the two sides are far apart. That is what the difficult future dialogue will be about, although some members of the former administration and the Zionist lobby are trying to prevent completion of the dialogue.

[Zaytun] Does the PLO have a specific aim in the dialogue?

[Hurani] There can be no doubt that we are endeavoring to transform the U.S. position from one of mere participation in a dialogue to one of acceptance of Palestinian legitimate rights. [passage omitted]

[Zaytun] When talking about the Arab situation, one is bound to broach the Syrian position on the latest developments. Is there an inclination to normalize Palestinian-Syrian relations to pave the way for the next phase, which requires thorough Arab coordination before the international conference?

[Hurani] We have shown interest and are still interested in normalizing relations with sister Syria, but the matter does not depend on our wishes. We expect Syria to reciprocate by ending its anti-PLO policy. Frankly, the current Syrian position will only isolate Syria further from the general pan-Arab stance. By its current position, Syria not only defies the Palestinian will, consensus, people, and intifadah but also stands against the Arab consensus in support of the PLO, the intifadah, and the cause in general. This will only further isolate it at both Palestinian and international levels. Perhaps the Syrian brothers will reconsider now that it has been proved to them that their policies on Lebanon, the Iraq-Iran war, and the liquidation of the PLO have failed.

[Zaytun] But the Syrians accuse the PLO of being an obstacle in Lebanon.

[Hurani] That is not true. The PLO has already declared that it favors a solution to the problem. I do not believe that the conflict in Lebanon is a Syrian-Palestinian conflict. In fact, it is a Syrian-Arab conflict, if we exclude the Israeli factor. The evidence can be found in the recent Arab unanimity achieved at the Arab League in support of a settlement of the Lebanese crisis. It has been established that the PLO does not stand in the way of a solution. I wish Syria would not be an obstacle either.

[Zaytun] How could you continue to engage in a dialogue with the United States, which did not hesitate to commit aggression against a fraternal Arab country, namely Libya, and to fabricate an international crisis with it over chemical industries?

[Hurani] We condemned the aggression against Libya. We always denounce U.S. behavior as the region's policeman, because we believe that to be contrary to its international role and responsibilities and particularly its responsibilities in the Middle East peace process, which means that it must avoid such provocations, which undermine world peace. The United States is one of the important powers responsible for preserving world peace. As a party to the dialogue with the United States, we wish such things would not happen, otherwise attention will be diverted from the crux of the region's conflict and Israeli aggression. We should not allow such peripheral issues to divert us from our main objective, which is continuation of work with the

United States to develop its position more and more in the direction of acceptance and recognition of Palestinian rights and establishment of peace.

[Zaytun] What about U.S.-Palestinian cooperation on the American airliner that exploded over Scotland?

[Hurani] So far, the PLO has not participated with the United States in the investigations connected with that case, but the PLO is interested in knowing the truth in the interest of the renunciation of terrorism, which the PLO has opposed. The PLO wants an end to and rejection of terrorism. When the PLO tries to find out and expose the truth, it does so in the service of the international determination to put an end to terrorism.

[Zaytun] How could U.S.-Palestinian dialogue continue when the Zionist enemy's answer to it is an escalation of its terrorist repression against the Palestinian people in the occupied territory with the aim of crushing the intifadah?

[Hurani] On the contrary, we believe that continuation of the dialogue and efforts to ensure its success would underscore the importance of ending Israeli repression, which we view as a reaction to the success of the principle of dialogue. I believe that the new U.S. Administration's resolve to continue the dialogue will compel Israel to accept it. The escalation of repressive measures by our enemy is not strange. It is to be expected, and we could exploit it to boost our international campaign to isolate the Israeli occupation and expose its terrorism. [passage omitted]

Hurani: Dialogue Up to U.S.

PM1502122089 London AL-SHARQ AL-AWSAT in Arabic 9 Feb 89 pp 1-2

[Zaki Musa report: "Palestinian Official Tells AL-SHARQ AL-AWSAT: Dialogue With Syria Does Not Require Official Recognition of Palestinian State"]

[Excerpt] London—A senior Palestinian official has emphasized that the PLO has not made the resumption of dialogue [with Syria], suspended since mid-1988, conditional on Syrian recognition of the Palestinian state. PLO Executive Committee Member Dr 'Abdallah Hurani told AL-SHARQ AL-AWSAT at midday yesterday that normalization of relations between the PLO and Syria does not require such recognition because Syrian Foreign Minister Faruq al-Shar' was quite clear when he said at the Arab foreign ministers conference in Tunis that the already-announced Syrian support is stronger than recognition.

Dr Hurani said that the PLO places no obstacles in the way of resumption of the dialogue, suspended earlier by the Syrian brothers, and that it is ready for dialogue at any time.

The Palestinian official revealed that in the past 48 hours the U.S. ambassador in Tunis contacted and held consultations on several issues with the PLO's representative in Tunis, Hakam Bal'awi.

He said that no new date has yet been fixed for a resumption of the U.S.-Palestinian dialogue, and it is now up to the American side. He added that the U.S. statements issued the day before yesterday on the military operation carried out by Palestinian organizations in southern Lebanon will not change the present atmosphere between the two sides.

He said that nobody can view military action against military personnel as terrorism. The PLO, he said, is still committed to its position condemning terrorism, and it opposes terrorism.

Referring to the Israeli army's armed aggression against Palestinian civilians, Dr Hurani asked: Doesn't that call for some reaction? He said that the establishment of U.S.-PLO relations annoys Israel, which is making every effort to prevent the continuation of the dialogue by leveling false charges at the PLO, which is now highly regarded internationally and which has earned worldwide respect.

The PLO Executive Committee member said that the U.S. Administration did not start the dialogue before it was fully convinced of the PLO's position.

Dr Hurani denied that the aim of the Palestinian leadership's current meetings is to discuss the formation of a Palestinian provisional government. The matter is still under study, he said, but it is not on the Executive Committee's agenda.

He said that the claims of a disagreement between various Palestinian factions on this matter were untrue because the issue was not raised as such. The general feeling, he added, is that there is no hurry to form a government. [passage omitted]

Meeting Between PLO Envoy, U.S. 'Positive'

PM1502154089 London AL-SHARQ AL-AWSAT in Arabic 10 Feb 89 p 2

[Unattributed report: "Palestinian Source Tells AL-SHARQ AL-AWSAT: No Obstacles To Resumption of PLO-U.S. Dialogue"]

[Excerpt] London, Tunis, AL-SHARQ AL-AWSAT, agencies—A responsible Palestinian source has confirmed that the meeting held 2 days ago between PLO Representative in Tunis Hakam Bal'awi and U.S. Ambassador to Tunisia Robert Pelletreau was positive. He told AL-SHARQ AL-AWSAT that no obstacles stood in the way of a resumption of the U.S.-PLO dialogue, noting that the meeting was the fourth of its kind.

Informed diplomatic sources say that in the next round of talks the Palestinians will submit proposals for the deployment of UN or European forces in the occupied territory to pave the way for an international peace conference and supervise the withdrawal of Israeli forces.

Meanwhile, the PLO leadership, represented by the PLO Executive Committee, yesterday resumed its meetings in Tunis for the third consecutive day. [passage omitted]

'Arafat Reportedly Meets With Syria's Al-Shar'

PM1502154889 London AL-SHARQ AL-AWSAT in Arabic 15 Feb 89 p 1

[Zaki Musa report: "Palestinian Source Tells AL-SHARQ AL-AWSAT: 'Arafat Met With Al-Shar' Secretly in Tunis"]

[Excerpt] London, AL-SHARQ AL-AWSAT—A senior Palestinian source has said that relations between Syria and the PLO have overcome many obstacles over the past few weeks. The source revealed to AL-SHARQ AL-AWSAT that a meeting was held in Tunis between PLO Executive Committee Chairman Yasir 'Arafat and Syrian Foreign Minister Faruq al-Shar'.

The Palestinian official indicated that the meeting, attended by PLO Political Department Head Faruq Qaddumi and PLO Information Department Head Yasir 'Abd Rabbuh, was held on the sidelines of the Arab foreign ministers conference held last month to discuss the situation in Lebanon, after which the Arab follow-up committee was formed under Kuwaiti Foreign Minister Shaykh Sabah al-Ahmad al-Jabir al-Sabah.

The official disclosed to AL-SHARQ AL-AWSAT that the meeting—confined to a discussion of developments in the regional situation, especially at the Palestinian level, and the future of relations between the two sides—was positive in character. During the meeting Faruq al-Shar' emphasized that Syria does not oppose the PLO stances announced recently, though it has its own viewpoint.

The official expressed optimism about reaching tangible results in the very near future through the two sides' meetings. He said that the meetings assumed various forms, most notably that held on the sidelines of the Arab meetings in Tunis and the contacts being made by some Arab parties.

Asked whether 'Arafat will meet with Soviet Foreign Minister Eduard Shevardnadze during the Soviet minister's tour of the region, the Palestinian official said: This is one of the possibilities being raised and which some Arab and international quarters are seeking to realize. And contacts have made good headway on this.

Meanwhile, responsible Palestinian quarters have said that the PLO will not be a party to the quadripartite grouping comprising Egypt, Jordan, Iraq, and the YAR. The PLO, the sources said, will continue to work with all Arab states to unite stands and ranks in the interests of the entire Arab nation and its progress. [passage omitted]

Khalaf Explains Israeli 'Plan' To Face PLO

JN1502160789 Abu Dhabi AL-ITTIHAD in Arabic 13 Feb 89 p 9

[Interview with Salah Khalaf, member of the Fatah Movement Central Committee, by an AL-ITTIHAD correspondent in Cairo—date not given]

[Excerpts] [Correspondent] What will be the form of the expected Palestinian government, and when will a Palestinian passport be issued? Is there any contradiction between the PLO Charter and 'Arafat's Geneva speech?

[Khalaf] The Israeli plan to confront the Palestinian move consists of two parts—political and military. The political side is related to the Israelis, who present initiatives on stages and make statements on Shamir's visit to Washington. They then speak about conducting elections in the occupied territory and under international supervision, not on withdrawal from the cities. They announce this on the basis that those who will take part in the elections are the ones who will negotiate with Israel.

I believe that the objective of these moves is not to find a solution, but to stop the intifadah [uprising] and to preoccupy the people with elections. This is despite the fact that the results of the 1976 elections were in favor of the PLO. But, what came next? They killed some of them [the winners in the elections] and deported others. Therefore, we believe that the elections are an Israeli objective to strike at the intifadah, split the Palestinian people, and separate the people inside the occupied territory from those outside. And this is how serious Shamir's call for elections is. He wants to present the matter to world public opinion as if it were something new, although it is not.

The military side of the plan aims at stopping the intifadah by any means. The measures that they have taken so far are not everything. They have in store other measures, such as limited massacres to frighten others as well as deportation on a larger scale.

He said that they might launch a military offensive on the Lebanese front to divert attention from the intifadah. And Israel might resort to limited clashes with Syria.

He noted that this is Israel's military plan in addition to assassination attempts and terrorist acts outside the area by unidentified sides so as to attribute them to Palestinians.

He said that the Palestinians will not stand with folded hands in the face of any aggression against Syria, the Syrian forces in Lebanon, or any other Arab state. The Palestinians will stand on the side of Syria or any other Arab state to confront any Israeli aggression.

[Correspondent] What will be the form of the Palestinian government, and when will it be declared? Will the government comprise members from inside and outside the occupied territory? Will it comprise members with Jordanian citizenship? What will happen with the issuance of Palestinian passports? Will participation in the international conference be linked to the formation of the government—that is, will the Palestinian government be declared before or after the convening of the international conference?

[Khalaf] With regard to the issue of the government, we have a unique precedence in history. We declared a state without a government. Usually, the government, not the state, is first declared. In fact, we will be patient in declaring the government. This is because we formed the All Palestine Government in 1948. It stayed for a few months only and ended. It was announced without ministers, and then, became without offices. This is not a simple experience. What is important is that we ask ourselves: Will the declaration of the Palestinian government give new momentum to the political action or will it be a normal thing? Is the political atmosphere ripe to declare the government for the purpose of negotiations, for example, or will the government undermine negotiations?

My personal opinion is that we must be patient in declaring the government because neither the political atmosphere nor the international atmosphere are prepared for it. Despite this, the PLO leadership will discuss the result of a study by the legal and political committee to expedite the declaration of the Palestinian government this month.

He said that the PNC has laid down a general outline for this government so that it will comprise members from inside and outside the occupied territory and its program will be that of the PNC in its recent session. [passage omitted]

With regard to the Palestinian passport, we will discuss this issue during the coming meeting of the Arab interior ministers, God willing. [passage omitted]

Envoy to USSR Criticizes Hawatimah Remarks

JN0402175689 Kuwait AL-ANBA' in Arabic
3 Feb 89 p 26

[By Salam Musafir in Moscow]

[Excerpt] Nabil 'Amr, PLO representative in the Soviet Union and member of the Fatah Revolutionary Council, has made the following statement to the newspaper AL-ANBA':

In the press interview that the Soviet newspaper IZVESTIYA conducted with Comrade Nayif Hawatimah, DFLP secretary general, published on 31 January, Comrade Hawatimah touched on what he described as deep differences within the Palestinian leadership over the formation of a provisional government. Proceeding from genuine democracy in the Palestinian arena, I allow myself to correct many remarks made by Comrade Hawatimah in his interview with the Soviet paper.

First, I point out that it is inaccurate to regard the differences over the formation of a Palestinian government as a main dispute in the Palestinian arena. There are ongoing studies and discussions on this issue that have not been concluded yet. Therefore, revealing to the press what takes place in the Palestinian leadership's meetings—even to the friendly press—will necessarily create confusion that we do not need, particularly in such a friendly arena as the Soviet Union, with reference to the differences over the government pointed out by Comrade Hawatimah. I agree with the Soviet reporter who conducted the interview when he commented: Is this not a case of "dividing the bearskin before you kill the bear"?

Second, the Palestinian uprising and the new situation it has created in the Palestinian-international arena should change numerous ways of old thinking, as well as the classifications with which average Palestinians and Arabs have been fed up. This applies to the remark that is uttered only by Comrade Hawatimah on the right and left wings in the Palestinian arena. If it is meant to consider the PLO leadership as the right wing, then this also means that the whole Palestinian people are right wing. We regret the utterrance of such words, especially since all of us are rallying around the stone held in children's hands. We are also rallying around the goal of establishing our independent state. Consequently, any human classifications introduced into our national path will inevitably distort our image and nothing more.

In his statement to AL-ANBA', 'Amr added: As for Palestinian-Syrian relations, which Comrade Hawatimah touched on in his interview with IZVESTIYA, we find it unnecessary now to criticize any Arab party, and there is no need to say more or less than what has already been said or what was issued by the PNC on the Palestinian-Syrian relationship. I mean we are fully prepared to open a new page with the brothers in Syria and that we can focus on positive aspects in order to attain this new page.

'Amr added: Palestinian national unity, which is deeply embodied in the uprising, is also embodied in the stand of the Unified National Leadership, which adheres to the PLO leadership under brother Yasir 'Arafat. This Palestinian national unity is our people's strong asset in this crucial phase of our struggle. Therefore, we should always serve this with responsible words, and we should not reveal the as-yet-incomplete discussions on any issue in the Palestinian arena, especially since the world is aware that we in the Palestinian arena hold much dialogue to attain positive results and not to tell the press that we have deep differences or contradictions.

'Amr said: On dialogue with the United States, it is well known that in the first meeting, the Palestinian delegation was led by Comrade Yasir 'Abd Rabbuh, the DFLP assistant secretary gereral and PLO Executive Committee member. In this meeting, the PLO presented its position to the U.S. side very clearly. The notion that the United States has the supernatural ability to swallow the PLO smacks of a lack of self-confidence. As the PLO, we talk to the Americans as the sole representatives of the Palestinian people. We talk to them, and we have the large wall of the uprising to lean on and the great sacrifices of our people. They talk to us now after completely despairing of finding other intelocutors that represent the Palestinian people and after despairing of Reagan's attempts to stop the uprising. Then what is the cause of fear now?

The Palestinian nationalism that is burning in the hearts of our people is deep and enlightened. Therefore, too much talk about pressures to stop the uprising and raising questions here and there is unrealistic and unobjective. Moreover, the uprising is not the making of a certain Palestinian faction, and its protection is not the responsibility of this or that faction. It is the creation of the Palestinian people, the seed of the PLO and of the entire PLO leadership. The uprising is the accumulation of many years of struggle and cannot be viewed as an egg threatened with smashing by a big foot, so a certain faction has to emerge to protect it. The uprising is an offspring that has grown in size and strength, and its protection is not the responsibility of a certain faction alone. It is the uprising of the entire Palestinian people, the uprising of the Arab consciousness. It is the hope of all noble and free men in the world who aspire for victory and for the triumph of justice.

The Palestinian official said: I have permitted myself to oppose Comrade Hawatimah, whom I hold in great esteem, in this manner and based on democratic principles. I am certain that Comrade Hawatimah and the other comrades in the DFLP will accept my opinions with no hard feelings as I have received their opinions, which I did not agree with.

Answering a question on the results of the Palestinian discussions about the formation of the government, 'Amr said: Discussions are still continuing. The committees entrusted with studying the legal, political, and technical aspects are still working on these issues. As usual, there are various interpretations and numerous opinions in the Palestinian arena on the resolutions on this. Certainly these discussions will result in a political decision that will be relevant to political developments. The government will encompass all Palestinian sectors. It will not be a factional government but a comprehensive national government. [passage omitted]

PLO Radio Warns Against Al-Quds 'Fabrications'

JN1402080489 Baghdad Voice of the PLO in Arabic 1928 GMT 13 Feb 89

[Excerpts] Brothers: With the beginning of its 15th month, the glorious Palestinian popular intifadah [uprising] is gaining more pride and glory and is increasing its heroic confrontations against the Zionist occupation army. [passage omitted]

In another direction and in order to serve the Zionist enemy, the so-called Al-Quds Radio, which transmits from Jabal al-'Arab in Syria and which is supervised by the agent Ahmad Jibril, continues to serve Zionist intelligence by distorting the national stands of many Palestinian nationalist figures and even those of Palestinian citizens.

Dr Fayyad 'Abd al-Rahman al-Fayyad, a dentist from Tulkarm; Dr Ahmad Abu Bakr; 'Abd al-Rahman Hasan, engineer; Muhammad Shadid, lawyer; and Ra'if Tawfiq 'Ajjawi, assistant pharmacist—all from Tulkarm—have issued the following clarification statement in response to what Jibril's radio had broadcast from Syria. The statement says:

We have learned that the so-called Al-Quds Radio, which transmits from Syrian territory, has for a while been mentioning our names among a list of names and alleging that we had made certain statements. We declare to everyone our old stance, which is renewed daily—that we support our sole legitimate leadership, the PLO, headed by brother Abu 'Ammar [Yasir 'Arafat]. We also declare our pride in these principled stands of ours, which we were eager to translate from the day we were born in the beloved homeland and from the day we walked on its pure sacred soil. We also have the honor to be among 80 figures from inside the occupied territories who signed the historic appeal that was sent to the Rabat [1974] summit, which issued great resolutions.

We reiterate our rejection and denouncement of the cheap method pursued by the mentioned radio, the so-called Al-Quds Radio, which transmits from Syria. We reiterate our rejection of these allegations and fabrications about our national stands, which are known to everyone far and near, inside and outside. We have struggled for and through these stands. We also joined the ranks of this great people and this had put us, or some of us, in detention camps on many occasions, the latest of which when we were detained in the Negev desert detention camp.

The method of climbing on the backs of honest people and using their names to transfer mistakes against our people and their historic leadership, which is recognized on Palestinian, Arab, and international levels, is a denounced method.

On behalf of our brothers and kinfolk in Tulkarm, whose names were mentioned by the mentioned radio and who allowed us to announce their names, we declare to everyone our decisive and clear rejection of these false allegations produced by the so-called Al-Quds Radio, which transmits from Syrian territory. We also declare that we have not given any statement to the mentioned radio, neither have we ever met with any of its correspondents.

We clearly declare that we support whatever is decided by our leadership, the PLO, headed by the great militant, Abu 'Ammar, the symbol of this people and the leader of our giant march. For the scum disappears like froth cast out; while that which is for the good of mankind remains on the earth. [part of a Koranic verse]

Signed: Dr Fayyad 'Abd al-Rahman al-Fayyad, dentist from Tulkarm; Dr Ahmad Abu Bakr; 'Abd al-Rahman Hasan, engineer; Muhammad Shadid, lawyer; and Ra'if Tawfiq 'Ajjawi, assistant pharmacist; all from Tulkarm.

Anyway, we would like to once again draw the attention of our brothers and kinfolk in all positions of the intifadah on our occupied Palestinian territory to the fact that although it carries the name Al-Quds [Jerusalem], our Palestinian state's eternal capital, the so-called Al-Quds radio is not Palestinian, but falsely carries the name Al-Quds. The fact that it transmits from Syria and is supervised by the Syrian regime through its agent Ahmad Jibril, accounts for its current status—a suspect radio that only serves the Zionist enemy government like it did with our brothers and kinfolk in Tulkarm.

The mentioned radio has, for a while, been fabricating alleged and false interviews with our kinfolk in the occupied homeland. We assure our kinfolk that everything transmitted by this radio, the so-called Al-Quds Radio, which transmits from Syria, is false and faked. This will not affect the march of our heroic people's intifadah, although that radio offers clear services to the Zionist enemy and its intelligence organs. [passage omitted]

PFLP-GC Popular Committees Issue Call

JN1202104289 (Clandestine) Al-Quds Palestinian Arab Radio in Arabic 1700 GMT 11 Feb 89

[Call issued by the Popular Resistance Committees—the PFLP-GC in Palestine; date, place not given]

[Text] In the name of God, the merciful, the compassionate. A call issued by the Popular Resistance Committees—the PFLP-GC in Palestine. At a time when there is an increased shedding of immaculate blood and with the refueling of the uprising, offering one martyr after another, bringing victory close to hand, we find that those who seek to capitalize on and trade with the cause are hastening to offer treasonable concessions, mortgaging Palestinian soil, trading with Palestine, and offering it on a tray of treason called the recognition of Resolutions 242 and 338.

However, all of these things will be crushed on the rock of the uprising. Your Front [the PFLP-GC] is of you and for you. It was founded to serve Palestine and liberate it from the claws and barbarism of the occupation. We have faith only in God and the rifle as well as our people's rights. These are sacred to us. There is no room for mortgaging them. We will not relinquish any one of our rights, no matter how small it might be. We will not bargain over the gigantic accomplishments scored by our people.

While hailing your gigantic steadfastness, your Front appeals to you to continue the struggle against the rancorous enemy. We call upon our valiant merchants to expand the boycott of Zionist commodities. Popular education is a nationalist demand. Let us convert the home, the street, the mosque, and the church into schools. Taxes, fines, as well as licensing and identity renewal fees should not be paid, as all this is a form of support for the deteriorating Zionist economy. The strike teams are called upon to carry out their missions against collaborators. They must force those who have not tendered their resignations to return to the ranks of their people.

We pay homage to and address greetings of pride to our righteous martyrs. We salute our courageous detainees. Move from one victory to another with your pioneering and leading front through the course based on the pursuit of armed conflict to secure the liberation of both land and man.

Philippines Recognizes Independent Palestine

HK1002114589 Manila PHILIPPINE DAILY GLOBE in English 5 Feb 89 pp 1, 9

[By staff writer Pamela Balcena]

[Text] The Philippine Government has officially recognized an independent Palestine state, a top official of the Department of Foreign Affairs [DFA] disclosed yesterday.

The official, who is based in the Middle Eastern and African Affairs division of the department but who asked for anonymity, said the recognition came after the Philippines, together with 104 other members of the United Nations, voted in favor of a resolution changing the name of the Palestine Liberation Organization to "Palestine state."

He noted that although the recognition was not expressed in a treaty, it was presumed from the favorable vote cast by the government's delegate to the UN.

The foreign affairs official explained that under accepted international law and diplomatic practice, there are three ways by which the recognition of a new state could be shown by any UN member country, namely:

—A "presumed" act, when a UN member votes in favor of recognizing the existence of a new state.

—Express or direct, through a treaty concluded with the new state by an existing nation or by the issuance of a joint communique conferring recognition to the new state.

—Implied or indirect, like when an existing state acknowledges an official communication from a new state.

The DFA official noted that Yasir 'Arafat, PLO chairman, declared a Palestine state in November last year before the Palestine National Council, PLO's parliament in exile in Algiers.

'Arafat's declaration was made after Jordan withdrew from the Israeli-occupied West Bank and Gaza Strip which, Arafat claimed, should have been the seat of government of the new Palestine state.

However, Palestine state's recognition by the 105 countries was only made possible after 'Arafat unequivocally recognized the independent existence of Israel as a nation, the official said.

Algeria

Bendjedid, Al-Qadhdhafi Hold Talks in Oran

LD1502145889 Algiers APS in English 1005 GMT 15 Feb 89

[text] Bousfer (Oran), 15/2/89 (APS)—A working session gathered on Tuesday in Oran (west of Algeria) President Chadli Bendjedid and Colonel al-Qadhdhafi who are due today Marrakech to take part in the second Maghrebin summits. [sentence as received]

In prevision of this great meeting the Maghrebin leaders are carrying on their preparatory work constituted of concertation and concertation to ensure the success to this second summit to make the project of the Maghrebin union reach. [sentence as received]

In this regard, President Chadli Bendjedid went on Monday to Libya to meet Colonel al-Qadhdhafi and to discuss with him this great project which is the edification of the great Arab Maghreb, before carrying on in the evening the three sided talks wih the Tunisian President Ben Ali.

Ghazali Suffers Heart Attack in Marrakech

NC1502201789 Paris AFP in English 1940 GMT 15 Feb 89

[Excerpt] Marrakech, Morocco, Feb 15 (AFP)—Algerian Finance Minister Sayed Ahmed Ghazali was rushed to a private clinic here late Wednesday after suffering a heart attack on the eve of the second Great Maghreb summit, a reliable source said.

Mr. Ghazali had arrived here Wednesday in President Chadli Bendjedid's delegation to the five-nation gathering, due to start here Thursday, which is also to be attended by the Libyan, Mauritanian, Tunisian and Moroccan heads of state.

The source said that the Algerian minister's condition was stable. [passage omitted]

Officials Deny Report

LD1602103289 Algiers Domestic Service in French 0600 GMT 16 Feb 89

[Text] Officials within the Algerian delegation, which is in Marrakech for the second Maghreb summit, have categorically denied an AFP report that Algerian Finance Minister Sayed Ahmed Ghazali has had a heart attack. While expressing astonishment at AFP's rash treatment of news, the same source says that Mr Sayed Ahmed Ghazali is very healthy.

Merbah Receives Somali Envoy, Siad Barre Message

LD1602045989 Algiers APS in English 1008 GMT 15 Feb 89

[Text] Algiers, 15/2/89 (APS)—The head of the government, Kasdi Merbah had talks yesterday with the Somalian vice prime minister, Ahmed Mahmud Farah, who handed him a message from President Siad Barre destined to President Chadli Bendjedid. Talks were centered on bilateral relations between the two countries.

GDR Minister Signs Cultural, Scientific Protocol

LD1502175989 Algiers APS in English 1032 GMT 15 Feb 89

[Text] Algiers, 15/2/89 (APS)—Following the visit that Heinz-Dieter Winter, vice foreign affairs minister of the German Democratic Republic (GDR) paid in Algiers in the frame of regular consultations between the two countries, an intergovernmental protocol of cultural and scientific cooperation was signed yesterday here.

This document which was signed by Abdelhamid Semichi, director of the socialist countries at the Foreign Affairs Ministry, and Winter, rules and organizes cultural and scientific exchanges between the two countries for the period 1989-1991.

It constitutes an adequate instrument for the promotion of exchanges in the fields of high teaching, national education, information, health and sports.

Egypt

Mubarak Interviewed on Foreign, Domestic Policy

NC1502171389 Cairo MENA in Arabic 1530 GMT 15 Feb 89

[Text] Cairo, 15 Feb (MENA)—President Husni Mubarak has described the quadripartite Arab economic grouping between Egypt, Jordan, Iraq, and the YAR as a "step" on the path toward economic integration, the features of which will be specified in the four-country communique that will be announced in Baghdad tomorrow, Thursday, following a meeting there.

In a comprehensive interview with AL-MUSAWWAR magazine, to be published on Friday, President Mubarak asserted that the new Arab entity is by its nature "an economic grouping" that can never take a political stance separate from the relations of Arab solidarity or from the framework of consultation among all the brothers.

He said: We are not supporters of axes, because political action on the Arab scene must serve to bolster solidarity among all.

President Mubarak noted that Jordan's King Husayn was the person who thought of establishing an economic grouping to include Egypt, Jordan, and Iraq. He added that the YAR later expressed a desire to join it.

On the Tabah issue, President Husni Mubarak expressed hope that this problem will end before mid-March. He pointed out that negotiations on it are proceeding since the parties reconsidered their positions. In this regard, President Mubarak asserted that Egypt rejects any pressure or preconditions by Israel for its withdrawal from the area.

He said that he had asked the Egyptian negotiating team to adhere to three definite positions represented by the following: That Egyptian sovereignty over Tabah is not a subject for debate; that Israelis without passports may not enter Tabah after the Israeli withdrawal from the area, the Israelis being treated in this respect just like any other tourists coming from any other country; and that Egypt is ready to pay a moderate and unexaggerated sum as compensation for the hotel and the Israeli tourist village in the area.

Concerning Israeli Trade and Industry Minister Ariel Sharon's threats to demolish the Israeli hotel in Tabah, President Mubarak said that if Sharon is threatening to demolish the hotel, let him do so, but by this action he will give "clear proof" of Israeli ill will. He pointed out that the Egyptians have felt this "ill will" through Sharon's "blunt" statements.

In his interview, President Husni Mubarak denied current speculations about the possibility of holding a tripartite summit among him, U.S. President George Bush, and Jordan's King Husayn in Tokyo, where all three will be attending the funeral of the late Japanese Emperor Hirohito on 24 February. He declared: I do not believe that this occasion will permit such a meeting, although it may be possible to hold quick bilateral consultations.

President Mubarak likewise denied the possibility of holding a tripartite summit in Tokyo at which Israeli Prime Minister Yitzhaq Shamir would be present.

Regarding reports on the prospects of holding a U.S.-Egyptian-Jordanian summit in Washington, President Mubarak announced: Preparations for this meeting have not yet been completed. Nevertheless, I imagine that my visit to Washington will take place at the end of March.

On what he expects from the new U.S. President, President Mubarak expressed hope that President George Bush's administration will be active in exploiting the available circumstances in order to drive the peace process forward toward its "correct objectives" and to play the role of "full partner." He said the U.S. role must not be restricted to that of "postman."

In the interview, President Mubarak urged Israel to realize that maintaining the current situation is "impossible" after the continuing Palestinian uprising has emphasized the total Palestinian rejection of a continued Israeli occupation.

President Mubarak affirmed that the time has come to establish a full and just peace in the Middle East that would recognize the Palestinian right to self-determination, particularly as the Palestinians have offered all they could offer—they clearly recognized UN Security Council Resolution 242, accepted the legitimacy of the Israeli presence within Israel's pre-1967 borders, submitted an assured commitment to renounce terrorist methods, and accepted to live peacefully alongside Israel in a Palestinian state that might be linked with Jordan in a confederation.

Concerning contacts with Syria, President Mubarak categorically denied that there are any contacts or secret meetings between Egypt and Syria and noted that neither has Damascus requested such contacts nor has Cairo rejected them.

At the beginning of the interview, President Mubarak spoke of the Egyptian press' condition. He asserted that he supports a free press and that the Egyptian regime, as far as he is concerned, means the majority parties, the opposition parties, the state's institutions, and society's institutions.

President Mubarak remarked that no one must expect him to adopt any extraordinary measure to curtail freedom of opinion or expression. He asserted that he accepts objective criticism because leaders are not gods, but humans who are sometimes right and sometimes wrong.

President Mubarak stressed that he does not object to the publishing of new Egyptian newspapers. He warned, however, of giving a totally free rein, so that no "press shops," as he called them, appear with no known financial sources. He referred to what has happened in a sister Arab state, whose national newspapers turned into instruments for foreign powers which have torn the country's national unity apart.

Following is the text of the interview granted by President Husni Mubarak to Makram Muhammad Ahmad, the chairman of the board of Al-Hilal Publishing House and chief editor of the Egyptian magazine "AL-MUSAWWAR":

[Ahmad] Mr President, no one can dispute the fact that the Egyptian press is living one of its most glorious times in terms of freedom and creativity. Minor problems exist, but everyone is free to write in the national papers and the opposition papers without censorship or fear of the future. Despite that, Mr President, many still wonder about the guarantees for the continuation of this atmosphere and about their rights to differ and to express divergent opinions.

Mubarak: I do not think that anyone can have any doubts concerning my commitment to freedom of the press. We have not banned writers, suppressed opinions, or shown irritation at being criticized. This has been true even in instances when criticism crossed the boundaries of objectivity and truth. From the very beginning I was

sure that excesses would take place, but I was also sure that the excesses would diminish with time, as journalists and writers gained confidence that their right of free expression is not temporary and that it is a constant and major feature of our democratic practice.

Journalists of the national and opposition papers have criticized all officials without exception, starting from the prime minister and including all the ministers and sometimes me. This has never bothered me. In many instances, I kept investigating the many cases which gave rise to criticism, to find out if our knowledge or understanding of them was complete or not. In some instances, I discovered certain prejudices and preconceptions in the writings. Still, other criticism was based on sound vision, clear facts, and a faithful desire to serve the public interest.

None of the criticism angered or irritated me, for criticism is part of the democratic process. There are certain officials, however, who, when they came under a barrage of unsubstantiated criticism, asked me to change my stand on the freedom of the press, on the pretext that the system has the right to defend itself and its men. My unequivocal answer was that the system for me is not just the majority party and the government institutions. The system is much broader and more inclusive.

The system for me is the majority and minority parties, the supporters and the opponents of the government, and the government and non-government institutions. No one should enjoy any immunity other than that under the law. A person who feels slandered by the press should seek justice in a court of law. No person should ever expect me to undertake any extraordinary measure that contradicts freedom of opinion and expression.

You ask me about guarantees. Let me tell you this clearly: The only guarantee is our abiding belief in democracy and our lawful political and legal institutions. I believe that the greatest guarantee for the freedom of the press is to refrain from restraining or censuring opinions, and to trust in the Egyptian people's awareness and ability to differentiate between right and wrong. We should leave the final judgment to the public, and we should all respect the law.

Despite this, in light of the freedom of the press process which began vociferously and inflammatorily I say that there are a number of conscientious restraints that every journalist and writer should observe: The freedom of the press should be used to serve the public interest and rise above personal interests, to respect the people's sanctities, to avoid defaming anyone without proof or foundation, and to refrain from becoming a field for reciprocal vendettas or for settling old scores.

In our freedom of the press process we experienced all these things. However, I leave it to the Egyptian public to judge what is happening because I have confidence in their intelligence and sagacity.

I believe, however, that the situation now calls for greater hope and optimism: The uproar has abated and at present the dominant characteristic of the freedom of expression is that it is beginning to serve the public interest.

[Ahmad] Mr President. There are those who understand your stand on the issue of freedom of the press as a kind of a desire to strike a balance between the positive and negative aspects of the picture; namely, that the journalists should draw a balanced picture of things.

Mubarak: First, I do not impose any restrictions on journalists or writers outside the law other than their national and professional conscience and their sense of public interest, especially with regard to the major national issues.

I also do not ask you to create from a vacuum a nonexistent picture. On the contrary, I want you to expose the hotbeds of corruption and error and to disclose the factors of negligence and elements of exploitation. In doing so, there are no restraints other than those of conscience.

I want you to criticize what you believe deserves criticism, but within an objective framework that seeks the fundamental reasons for every problem. I want you to help to enlighten the Egyptian public and to have confidence in their intelligence, wisdom, and sagacity. I want you to engage in national dialogue without defamation or villification.

I tell you very clearly and frankly that the rulers are not infallible gods or above criticism. We are all human beings who sometimes act correctly and sometimes erroneously. [The late] President Anwar al-Sadat had also erred and acted correctly. I, too, shall err and also act correctly. Perhaps Egypt's long experience has taught me that freedom of the press could be a safety valve for society; it could also be a guard against persisting in error.

Finally the important thing is that the objective of all others should be the national interest. If I had previously criticized the party and national press for having preoccupied themselves with vendettas and with settling old scores, I now say that the picture at present is brighter and our various newspapers are now dealing with many Egyptian issues and problems with increasing objectivity.

Here, I do not differentiate between a journalist in a national foundation and another in a party foundation since they are all Egyptians. However, I am perhaps following with great admiration the writings of a number of excellent opposition journalists, which display a genuine national affiliation, a vigilant conscience, and an objective logic in criticism or in dealing with issues.

[Ahmad] Mr President, that is what we have actually felt in meetings with you. You have shown interest in communicating with the opposition journalists and sometimes joked with them. So far so good, but these

colleagues in the opposition have the right to information. Some officials, Mr President, still close their doors to reporters of the opposition papers, giving the false impression that the right to information is the exclusive privilege of the national papers.

Mubarak: Such behavior is short-sighted. In my office, I have instructed the person in charge of the information desk to give prompt answers to any questions or demands for information by the opposition papers, to keep them in the picture, and to explain the facts to them, unless the issue in question should be kept secret for reasons of national interest.

If some people keep their doors closed to the opposition papers' reporters, this is wrong, and I will investigate it immediately. Depriving a journalist of information because he belongs to the opposition could lead to this journalist falling under the influence of people who may provide him with incorrect information, or to being so frustrated that he invents news. In either case, the truth will be affected.

[Ahmad] Mr President, certain opposition papers complain that security men harass their reporters while they are out in the field covering the news. The latest incident of this kind was during the recent events at the bar association, when an AL-WAFD correspondent at the scene was harassed.

Mubarak: To begin with, I am against any administrative or security measure which compromises the safety or dignity of newsmen carrying out their duty. If you have a specific case, the matter should be taken up with the interior minister, for in previous instances those who were arrested were not actually members of the Journalists Association. Still, this issue deserves a frank discussion with the interior minister.

[Ahmad] Mr President: What is certain is that we are approaching a new stage in which Egypt will complete all its requirements for democracy. Do you not think, Mr President, that the circumstances are favorable now for us to reconsider some of the measures governing the right to publish newspapers, so that there will be an outlet for each current, and more work opportunities will be created for the new generations of journalists?

Mubarak: I do not mind the issuance of new papers. However, I still warn—and I have no personal interest in this respect—that you must not give free reign to that issue. Should this happen, we will find ourselves overwhelmed by newspapers and press shops whose source of finance we would not be able to ascertain. You should have learned a lesson from the events that have taken place in a fraternal Arab country, where everything was given free reign. Its national press was turned into a tool in the hands of foreign powers that have torn the nation apart, deepened its divisions, and led it to civil war.

The press, if it is a national one that commits itself to the goals and serves the interests of the homeland, is a tool for enlightenment, culture, and correction. But it could turn into a serious weapon if it were to deviate from the course of national commitment. How could the homeland possibly benefit from a press that does not commit itself to the homeland's supreme interests? I believe you, as journalists, are aware of the gravity of the threats facing Egypt as well as the magnitude of the powers that seek to reach inside Egypt to hamper its stability. I am not depriving society of its right to publish new papers, but I must warn that things should not be left unrestrained.

[Ahmad] Mr President: If you believe that the image of the Egyptian press, both the national or the opposition, is not brighter now than before, what do you think the press should do in order to be more effective in promoting democracy?

Mubarak: Absolutely nothing, except that the dialogue between you journalists and writers should live up to a level worthy of the important role you play in society. By so doing you could help in teaching new generations that realize the democratic practice does not merely mean screams and shouts, insults, personal abuse, and bickering. Let me be frank with you. On several occasions I have been deeply worried over the demeaning level that the dialogue sometimes reaches.

You must realize that Egyptians still respect writing, but I am afraid they could change their minds unless the dialogue between you rises to the level of your important role in society. If I may add another remark here, I would like to request all journalists and writers, of whatever political affiliation, to keep the interests of the vast majority of our people uppermost on their minds, to appreciate the demands for social stability, and to take a fair stand on the interests of all the people, poor or wealthy.

There are some who demand the cancellation of income tax. There are others who demand the cancellation of other forms of taxes paid by wealthy people, such as consumption tax and the like. We must all be aware of the dangers of this incorrect tendency on the stability of the social security process, as well as on the interests of wealthy people themselves. Where do the monies from these taxes which they demand to be cancelled, go? These taxes constitute one of the important sources, which finance numerous ventures that serve the interests of all Egyptians. These taxes serve both the poor and the rich.

As far as utilities are concerned, these taxes constitute one of the important sources that finance utility projects such as hospitals, schools, and other utilities, which are needed by the majority of our people. What will happen if the state does not have enough financial sources for these services? It will not be able to fulfill its commitments toward the less fortunate segments of the population. The society's balance will be disturbed, malice will brood in the hearts, and we will find ourselves in a society where genuine social solidarity ties have eroded.

[Ahmad] Mr President, as journalists, we are experiencing some aspects of this problem, especially with our youths, who suffer from the crises of limited income and lack of decent housing particularly when they have jobs that require at least a minimal attention to grooming, wardrobe, and appearance.

Mubarak: I am for the idea of taking care of the interests of young journalists especially with regard to their economic rights.

[Ahmad] Mr President, what can we say if matters have reached a point where lawyers, who are the backbone of legitimacy and law, open fire in their association as one party wants to remove another from the association.

Mubarak: These lawyers engaged in fighting with hands, knives, and chairs, portaying a sad and regrettable image of Egypt that lacked true belief in legitimacy, law, and genuine democratic behavior. I followed what was happening in the Bar Association with profound sadness and utmost regret, but I had to remain silent. What could I say—part of my continuous pride is that we are in a state that respects legitimacy and rule of law. These lawyers had presented a miserable picture.

We rejected both parties' appeal to storm the association headquarters until the public prosecutor issued a decision to this effect. When the public prosecutor sent six of his representatives to investigate the shooting inside the association, the lawyers responded with riot and incrimination. Then the public prosecutor had no choice but to order the storming and evacuation of the association. The six representatives of the public prosecutor were the ones who carried out this order with limited assistance by the security men.

[Ahmad] Mr President, the journalists are displeased because they feel that they are the only group of tradesmen who do not receive adequate appreciation by the state in recognition of their role. They have no day to commemorate their leaders and pioneers. They have no recognized award as scientists, men of letters, poets, and researchers have. All of them are awarded two prizes by the state, an encouragement prize for the youths and an appreciation one for the senior pioneers, while journalists have no award.

Mubarak: Why has your request been so late until today? I will ask Dr 'Ali Lutfi, chairman of the Higher Council of Press, to prepare a draft presidential decree, granting journalists the state's encouragement and appreciation prizes as of this year. This is truly your right because everyone knows that your profession is full of troubles.

[Ahmad] Mr President. I would like, if you permit me, to move from the press issue to a number of other issues. Your Excellency, Mr President, what has occurred with regard to Tabah, particularly after your recent statements firmly rejecting Israel's position that links the issue of withdrawal from the Tabah area, in accordance with the tribunal's ruling, with the issue of paying compensation for the hotel and the tourist village?

Mubarak: I believe that all the parties have revised their positions, and I hope that we will end the Tabah problem before mid-March. It has been strange for the Israelis to make withdrawal hinge on the payment of an exaggeratedly estimated compen_ation. From this logic with extreme clarity. [sentence incomplete as received] To tell the truth, many commentators in the Israeli newspapers have sided with Egypt on this issue and asserted that the Israeli negotiator's position will cast doubt on intentions for peace. They said that the only result expected of this position is that Egyptians will feel they are facing unjustifiable blackmail.

Why should we pay $70 million as compensation for installations whose value might not amount to more than $20-25 million. Then why link withdrawal on the date specified by the arbitration tribunal with this procrastination in discussing the compensation issue? If the Israelis are setting preconditions for their withdrawal, then we reject these conditions. If they imagine that by this position they can apply pressure in order to attain other objectives, we will not accept any pressures.

[Ahmad]: Mr President, what do they want to achieve by their attempts to apply pressure?

Mubarak: Perhaps they imagine that through this pressure they will force us to pay this huge sum in order to hasten their withdrawal without any problems. Perhaps they also imagine that, through this unacceptable method, they can force us to make some concessions with regard to the conditions for the entry of Israeli tourists to the Tabah area. Anyway, I have asked the Egyptian negotiating team to adhere to three definite positions:

1. Egyptian sovereignty over Tabah is not a subject for debate.
2. Israelis may not enter Tabah after their forces withdraw without passports, the Israelis being treated in this respect as any other tourists coming from any other country.
3. We are ready to pay a reasonable compensation for the hotel and the tourist village, a compensation that is not a "rip-off." It is clear now that the negotiations are proceeding in a different climate.

[Ahmad] But Mr President, Ariel Sharon, the Israeli trade and industry minister, is threatening to demolish the hotel in Tabah, just as they did in Yamit before they withdrew from the Sinai.

Mubarak: If Sharon wants to demolish the hotel, let him do so, but if he does, he provides clear proof of Israel's ill will. However, Israeli Prime Minister Yitzhaq Shamir has not said anything about this. I might ask Sharon: What will happen after he demolishes the hotel? Will that create a suitable atmosphere for good-neighborly

relations between Egypt and Israel? It was indeed strange for the Israelis to make the relations between two neighbors contingent upon a sum of $20 or $30 million, to which they have no right.

Had we proposed the demolition of the hotel, there would have been a furor and the Israelis would have accused us of being advocates of destruction, of being against construction, and of not being very civilized.

I tell Sharon: All Egyptians have felt the ill will in his crude statements.

[Ahmad] Mr President, what are the aims of the economic structure that Egypt is now seeking to establish with Jordan, Iraq, and the YAR? Why has it cropped up so suddenly?

Mubarak: It was King Husayn of Jordan's idea. The Hashemite Kingdom of Jordan had proposed that the cooperation between Egypt and Jordan and Iraq be expanded as a step on the path of economic integration among the three states. When the YAR showed a desire to participate there was no objection. The structure, in this sense, is economic more than it is political. We are not advocates of axes, because political action in the Arab circle should be for consolidating solidarity among all.

Consequently, this structure is by nature an economic one, and it cannot assume a political stand that is divorced from the relations of Arab solidarity or outside the framework of consultations with all the fraternal countries.

Within the context of this understanding, the bilateral committees, which used to link the four states' relations, will become joint committees that will discuss the prospects of joint economic cooperation in the hope of achieving a semblance of integration. There is a proposal to eliminate customs duties, but I think that this is premature. Each of our countries has its own national industry that it wants to protect.

However, through equitable deals, we can help each other if one of us is producing commodities that the others need. We can also assist each other in overcoming export problems if all of us are producing the same kind of commodity. In the final analysis, it is a step along the path of economic integration, whose features will be defined in the leaders' statement that will be announced after our first meeting in Baghdad on 16 February.

[Ahmad] Mr President, there is speculation that you may hold a three-way summit meeting in Tokyo with U.S. President George Bush and King Husayn on 24 February, during your visit there to attend the funeral of the Japanese emperor. There is other speculation concerning another three-way summit meeting, to be attended by Yitzhaq Shamir.

Mubarak: I do not think that the occasion will allow this to happen. No arrangements have been made for such meetings. The most that can happen in Tokyo is some consultations in the form of brief bilateral meetings.

[Ahmad] Mr President, there is still other speculation that a tripartite summit will be held in Washington at the invitation of U.S. President George Bush and that you and King Husayn will attend this summit in which the future of peace in the Middle East will be discussed.

Mubarak: The arrangements for such a meeting are not yet complete, but I imagine that my visit to Washington may take place near the end of March.

[Ahmad] Mr President, what do you expect from U.S. President George Bush, in view of your old friendship with him?

Mubarak: I do not expect miracles from the new U.S. president, and I do not expect a tilt toward the Arab position.

The most I hope for is that the new U.S. Administration and I will engage in active efforts and utilize the available opportunities to steer the peace process toward its correct goals. We hope that the United States will play the role of a full partner and not diminish its role to that of a postman.

What gives us such hope is that the new U.S. president is a reasonable man who understands all the aspects of the problem and knows, through his varied experience, all the details. I was particularly happy that he telephoned me on his 1st day in the White House. In this call, President Bush promised to make constructive efforts and cooperate with us to achieve peace and stability in the Middle East.

I believe that the time is ripe for bringing about a comprehensive and just peace in the Middle East, a peace in which the Palestinians enjoy the right of self-determination. The Palestinians have offered all they can. They clearly accepted Resolution 242, they recognized the existence of Israel within the pre-1967 borders, and they made a firm commitment to renounce terrorism in deference to international law. They have accepted coexistence with Israel in a Palestinian state that can be linked with Jordan in a confederation.

Probably the Israelis will finally understand that it is impossible to keep the situation as it is, particularly as the continued Palestinian uprising underlines the total Palestinian rejection of a continued Israeli occupation.

[Ahmad] There is renewed talk of secret Egyptian-Syrian contacts.

Mubarak: It is totally untrue that secret contacts or meetings are going on between Cairo and Damascus. The Syrians have made no requests to this effect and we have

rejected none. The report of a recent secret meeting in Damascus between Syrian Foreign Minister Faruq al-Shar' and Dr Usamah al-Baz is totally false. I do not know why such rumors keep surfacing.

[Ahmad] Mr President, can we say that Egypt has become, by deeds and not merely by words, a state ruled by institutions, a state where decisions are made through a true dialogue between the governing institutions and society? We know, Mr President, that you let everyone share in the responsibility of national work, and that you do not make a decision until you have examined all the options. However, there are still question marks concerning the effectiveness of the state's institutions.

Mubarak: Let us discuss the role of the state's institutions. We have discussed the role of one of these institutions, the press, at length. I do not think that anyone can dispute the fact that the Egyptian press, both the national and opposition press, enjoy their complete freedom.

Despite the few reservations which I have already made, I believe that the picture is brighter now and that reporting in our press is largely objective.

Let us now discuss our legislative institutions. I honestly believe that the People's Assembly is undertaking its legislative tasks through a constructive dialogue between the majority and the minority.

I have only one remark to make about the work of the People's Assembly: I wish that every member of the Assembly would thoroughly study the issues which he addresses, so that he is able to make the right decision.

I want to see more People's Assembly members who take painstaking looks at the facts and figures, who examine all aspects of the problems, investigate the reasons and the obstacles, and take into consideration the interests of the larger sections of our society. This is necessary if stability in this country is to be established on a strong basis and with the objective of achieving social peace.

I will give you an example from the last People's Assembly session, which was devoted to debating the government's health policies. One of the People's Assembly members stood up and said that the incidence of cancer in our population is 18 percent. Where did he get this figure? The correct figures state that the incidence of cancer is not more than 0.5 percent.

Let me give you another example. Another parliamentarian once called for waiving the tax on wages. We have taken the inheritance tax debate at the Consultative Council seriously. This was an important discussion, because the collection of this tax is complicated and its estimated amount was greatly exaggerated. We have agreed to review the laws on the inheritance tax because many sections of our society, particularly the poor, had complaints about it.

However, the increased pressures to reconsider the tax on wages, or other taxes which are crucial sources of public revenues, are unacceptable, because the state uses these revenues to meet its social obligations to the larger sections of our society.

If we move now to the executive branch, I would like to reiterate my total satisfaction with the performance of Dr 'Atif Sidqi's government. The current government has undertaken decisive steps to reform our economy, most notably the unification of the exchange rate.

Some people criticize the government of Dr 'Atif Sidqi because it takes the time to study any issue before it makes a decision, but I like that. Quick and emotional decisions may please some, but the lack of proper preparation is bound to become evident as time passes.

[Ahmad]: Mr President, many people are speaking of deep differences among the ministerial team, and they say that these differences threaten to paralyze the effectiveness of ministerial functions.

Mubarak: This is not true at all. There are no contradictions of the nature you speak of among the members of the ministerial team. There are differences of view and diverging interpretations within a general view, the outline of which all of them agree on. There is no harm in this. Such differences are needed so that we may reach the correct decision through varying interpretations. I do not think that any of the differences to which you refer have reached the point that you imagine.

[Ahmad] What remains, Mr President, is to talk about the president's role with regard to the difficult legacy in which problems have accumulated.

Mubarak, laughing: All of you speak of the restriction that the emergency law imposes on the liberty of some individuals, who in the final reckoning are opposed to legitimacy and law and squander the homeland's interests and security. However, perhaps you do not know that if this law applies to anyone at all, it applies to the president of the Republic. I am living in a constant state of emergency. I miss having a normal life, miss my friends. I miss walking in the street among the people, like a normal person. Even my hurried trips abroad are made in the same way, from the hotel to the talks to the plane. Frequently I do not know the name of the hotel in which we are staying.

My mind is full of problems day and night: the subsidy, loans, electricity, salaries, the budget, the deficit, Tabah, Israel, friends, enemies. It is an endless reel of urgent problems that require prompt solutions, and other problems for which there are divergent alternative solutions.

I thank God, however, that our ship is sailing safely ahead despite the storms, and this is because the people know all the facts and realize the difficulty of the legacy,

and because I have no ambitions from my authority except to establish a correct foundation for a full-fledged democracy and efficient institutions.

This is the proper achievement that I feel is the responsibility of a sensitive and important stage in the history of nationalist rule in Egypt.

Morocco

Ambassador-Level Relations Formed With DPRK

LD1502153689 Rabat MAP in English 1315 GMT 15 Feb 89

[Text] Rabat, Feb 15. (MAP)—Morocco and the Democratic People's Republic of Korea have decided to establish diplomatic relations at the level of plenipotentiary ambassadors, as of February 13, 1989. The decision was made in common agreement and in a bid to promote the two countries' friendship relations and economic and cultural cooperation on the basis of respect of the objectives of the U.N. Charter.

Bendjedid Visit 'Sealed' Reconciliation

PM1502115689 Casablanca LE MATIN DU SAHARA in French 10 Feb 89 p 1

[Ahmed Alaoui editorial: "A New Era"]

[Text] The friendly working visit Algerian President Chadli Bendjedid just made to Morocco on 6, 7, and 8 February, the official and popular welcome given to the fraternal head of state, the numerous private meetings with His Majesty Hassan II, and the working sessions between Moroccan ministers and their Algerian counterparts, sealed the reconciliation between the two countries and created a new era for Moroccan-Algerian relations which are now based on understanding and cooperation.

No foreign or fraternal head of state has received a welcome like President Chadli Bendjedid. His visit gave rise to spontaneous demonstrations in which the Moroccan people expressed their joy, thus creating a very favorable climate, clearly demonstrating the Moroccans' affection for the Algerian people, the fraternal spirit which motivates them, and their desire to live in constant harmony with them.

Similarly, there was the welcome given by his majesty the king and the talks held with his guest during those three days—talks which related to bilateral relations and the building of a united Greater Maghreb.

We really can readily talk of a new era.

Finally, to crown this historic visit and the reconciliation, agreement, and cooperation, we must cite the joint final statement signed by Adellatif Filali and Boualem Bessaieh, the two countries' foreign ministers, on 8 February in the prestigious setting of the Fes royal palace. This joint statement, which lays the practical foundations for the political and economic accord, is crucial because it states that all the agreements reached since 1962 are still valid and applicable.

The two countries, the statement stresses, are "anxious to implement the objectives and procedures enshrined in the treaties and conventions concluded between the two fraternal countries so as to give new impetus and dynamism to the multifaceted relations binding them."

And the statement mentions in particular:

"On the 20th anniversary of the signing of the treaty of fraternity, good-neighborliness, and cooperation between the two countries in Ifrane dated 15 January 1969.

"Inspired by the spirit and letter of this historic treaty, with the aim of increasing cooperation to the level desired in light of the positive developments which have characterized relations between the two countries and the two fraternal peoples.

"Convinced that this summit between Morocco and Algeria constitutes an important milestone in building the Greater Arab Maghreb and a contribution to the consolidation of Maghreb efforts aimed at fulfilling the aspirations of the peoples in the region." [last three paragraphs as published]

Thus, all the conventions and agreements hitherto concluded not only remain valid but should be implemented without delay, notably in the economic, cultural, agricultural, and energy spheres, and in the areas of transportation, telecommunications, justice, administration, etc., as should the convention on residence, and the free circulation of goods, individuals, and ideas. This is all very important, as is the passage relating to "the creation of a joint company to study the plan for a gas pipeline to take Algerian natural gas to Europe and to supply the Moroccan market.

We can say that the installation of the gas pipeline finally seals the accord between the two countries, establishes a climate of confidence between them, and makes bilateral cooperation irreversible, and the first illustration of this will be the meeting of the joint grand commission in Rabat in March.

We must also stress the passage in the declaration which emphasizes that everything is being done according to the letter and spirit of the 1969 Ifrane Treaty.

The letter is the very text of the conventions and agreements signed.

The spirit is the desire for agreement, in the broadest sense, which inspires the officials of the two countries and the two peoples. It is a desire for peace and reconciliation, and a pledge to do nothing which might cast

doubt on this reconciliation, accord, and cooperation. Let us remember Articles I, IV, and V of the 1969 Treaty of Fraternity, Good-Neighborliness, and Cooperation:

"Article I

"Permanent peace, strong fraternity, and fruitful good-neighborly relations have been established between Morocco and the Democratic and Popular Republic of Algeria in the spirit and awareness of the age-old fraternity between the two fraternal peoples, aimed at building a prosperous common future.

"Article IV

"In case of conflict or dispute of whatever nature, the two signatories will refrain from any use of force and will try to settle it through peaceful means in accordance with the spirit of friendship, fraternity, and good-neighborliness....

"Article V

"The two sides pledge not to adhere to any pact or alliance directed against one of them."

These articles, to which Morocco has always remained faithful, clearly define the two countries' desire for agreement in a climate of confidence and close cooperation.

They stress their desire for constant peace, ruling out any use of force, pledging to rule out any act of hostility against each other and, implicitly, refusing to serve as a base for aggressions against the other.

We are therefore extremely happy and satisfied with the development of Moroccan-Algerian relations. In fact, the Algerian president's visit is a new stage in our relations and marks the start of an era of fraternal accord and fruitful cooperation not only for the two countries but for the whole united Greater Maghreb.

Sudan

'Raiding Tribesmen' From Chad Kill 96 in Darfur

AB1502210689 Paris AFP in English 1624 GMT 15 Feb 89

[Text] Khartoum, 15 Feb (AFP)—Raiding tribesmen from Chad have killed 96 people in Sudan's Western Darfur Province and caused heavy losses among government troops there in the past two weeks, an MP for Darfur told parliament here Wednesday.

Abdul Jabar Adam Abdul Karim called for a parliamentary commission to be set up to investigate the attacks on farms and villages in the remote province, in which 11 people were also hurt.

Mr. Abdul Karim had just returned to the capital from Darfur, where, he said, Sudanese troops were ill-equipped to deal with an increasing number of cross border raids by pillaging tribesmen and had sustained heavy losses.

Southern Official on Relief Supply Problems

EA1302170389 Khartoum National Unity Radio in Arabic 1324 GMT 13 Feb 89

[Text] The chairman of the Council of the South, Mr Angelo Beda, has accused unnamed quarters of interrupting the transport of supply items to the southern regions. He said that he has arrived at the conclusion that the supply items approved for the southern regions which are transported via al-Ubayyid, Raja and Wau don't reach their destinations. Mr Beda said he had been forced to personally supervise the transport operations. He witnessed the transport by rail of 10,000 sacks from Babanusa town to Aweil and Al-Diyn.

Relief of Torit Garrison Called 'Pipe Dream'

EA1502205989 (Clandestine) Radio of the Sudanese People's Liberation Army in Latuka 1120 GMT 15 Feb 89

[Text] Listeners: As you know, we have held lengthy discussions with enemy soldiers, whom we have told that the idea of relieving their besieged garrison in Torit or any other town under siege was a pipe-dream. We have said and will continue to say that any of these soldiers who decides to come over to us will be welcomed into our ranks, as has happened in the case of every such soldier who has already taken this course.

Listeners: You now realize that Al-Sadiq al-Mahdi is a great liar. A few months ago he rejected the DUP [Democratic Unionist Party]-SPLA peace initiative, but now you and we are hearing reports that he has endorsed that peace initiative. Does this mean that he is a committed leader? But Al-Sadiq al-Mahdi has never been serious about peace. Being such a liar, he recently decided to deceive the Sudanese public by announcing that he was endorsing the DUP-SPLA peace initiative.

At the same time, however, he was planning to send very heavy reinforcements to his besieged garrison in Torit, obviously as a means of provoking the SPLA. But such abortive tactics will find us always prepared, because we have always known that Al-Sadiq al-Mahdi and his brother-in-law, Al-Turabi, are unmoved by the suffering of our Sudanese masses.

Al-Sadiq al-Mahdi's alleged declaration of a cease-fire to allow the convening of a national constitutional conference is a declaration of war. He will die with his dreams. He ought, in fact, to already know that he is a disintegrating leader.

Tunisia

Kuwaiti Education Minister 'Assaulted' in Tunis

LD1602092989 Tunis Domestic Service in Arabic 1300 GMT 15 Feb 89

[Text] Kuwaiti Minister of Education Anwar Abdullah al-Nuri, was assaulted yesterday by a person carrying a sharp tool who suffered a sudden nervous fit.

A responsible security source at the Kuwaiti Interior Ministry reported today that Mr Anwar Abdullah al-Nuri suffered multiple wounds as a result of the assault and was admitted to the hospital. His condition is satisfactory.

[Tunis Domestic Service in Arabic at 1000 GMT on 15 February reports that a decree has been issued entrusting Minister of Higher Education Dr Ali 'Abdallah al-Shamlan with the duties of minister of education during Mr al-Nuri's absence].

Bahrain

UK's Waldegrave Arrives in Manama 15 Feb

JN1502185289 Manama WAKH in Arabic 1815 GMT 15 Feb 89

[Text] Manama, 15 Feb (WAKH)—William Waldegrave, British minister of state for foreign affairs, and his accompanying delegation arrived in Manama this evening from Kuwait on a 2-day visit to Bahrain within the framework of a tour of the countries in the region.

During the visit the British minister will hold talks with Bahraini Foreign Minister Shaykh Muhammad ibn Mubarak Al Khalifah and a number of Bahraini officials to discuss ways to promote bilateral relations and current developments in the Arab Gulf region. The two sides will also discuss the Middle East and Palestine questions, international issues, and issues of mutual interest.

Upon arrival, Waldegrave was received by Shaykh 'Abd al-Rahman ibn Faris Al Khalifah, head of the administrative and financial affairs department in the Bahraini Foreign Ministry, and John Alan Shepherd, British ambassador to Bahrain.

Meets With Amir, Premier

JN1602094289 Manama WAKH in Arabic 0900 GMT 16 Feb 89

[Text] Manama, 16 Feb (WAKH)—This morning His Highness Shaykh 'Isa ibn Salman Al Khalifah, amir of Bahrain, and His Highness Shaykh Khalifah ibn Salman Al Khalifah, prime minister, received William Waldegrave, British minister of state for foreign affairs, and the accompanying delegation during their courtesy visit to Bahrain.

During the meeting they reviewed bilateral relations, the current situation in the region, current Arab and international issues, and issues of mutual interest. Attending the meeting were Shaykh Muhammad ibn Mubarak Al Kahifah, Bahraini foreign minister; John Alan Shepherd, UK ambassador to Bahrain; and Shaykh 'Abd al-Rahman ibn Faris Al Kahlifah, director of the administrative, financial, and consular affairs at the Ministry of Foreign Affairs.

The British minister of state arrived in Manama yesterday evening on a 2-day visit to Bahrain as part of a regional tour.

Confers With Foreign Minister

JN1602133089 Manama WAKH in Arabic 0950 GMT 16 Feb 89

[Text] Manama, 16 Feb (WAKH)—Shaykh Muhammad ibn Mubarak Al Khalifah, Bahraini foreign minister, met this morning with William Waldegrave, British minister of state for foreign affairs, currently visiting Bahrain.

WAKH has learned that during the meeting they reviewed relations of friendship and cooperation between Bahrain and the UK in various fields and ways to promote these relations in the economic, trade, and educational fields. They also reviewed political developments on the world and Arab levels, particularly concerning cooperation between the EC and the GCC states in light of the outcome of the ninth session of the GCC higher council held in Bahrain in December 1988. They also reveiwed the Middle East situation in light of the latest developments in the Palestinian and Arab arenas as well as the steps taken to gain understanding among the concerned parties in order to establish a just and lasting peace in the Middle East.

The Bahraini foreign minister lauded the new British stand on the initiation of dialogue with the PLO and the efforts to hold an international conference in order to bring about peace in the Middle East. The Bahraini and British sides also reviewed developments in the Gulf region and ways to render successful the efforts being exerted to achieve peace in the region and to implement Security Council Resolution 598. Waldegrave arrived in Manama yesterday as part of his current tour of the region.

Kuwait

Shaykh Sa'd: Some Issues With Iraq 'Outstanding'

JN1502145089 Kuwait ARAB TIMES in English 14 Feb 89 p 1

[Excerpt] Kuwait, Feb 13, (KUNA): HH the Crown Prince and Prime Minister Shaykh Sa'd Al-'Abdallah said today that his visit to Iraq was successful.

Speaking to a delegation of the Kuwait Women's Cultural and Social Society, Shaykh Sa'd said that his visit to Iraq emanated from Kuwait's desire to enhance cooperation between the two countries.

He added: "Some issues might still be outstanding, but I am optimistic that with constant contacts and dialogue with our brothers in Iraq these problems will be solved."

Shaykh Sa'd pointed out that Kuwait was still facing several crises. But he expressed hope that, with unity at the home front, the country will eventually overcome all the problems. [passage omitted]

Cabinet Aide on Iraq Ties, Lebanon Mediation

PM1602090789 London AL-SHARQ AL-AWSAT in Arabic 14 Feb 89 p 2

[Hisham al-Diwan report: "Al-Rashid to AL-SHARQ AL-AWSAT: New Phase of Understanding Between Kuwait And Iraq"]

[Text] Kuwait, AL-SHARQ AL-AWSAT—Rashid al-Rashid, Kuwaiti minister of state for cabinet affairs, has praised the results of the visit to Baghdad by Shaykh Sa'd

al-'Abdallah al-Salim al-Sabah, heir apparent and prime minister, and his meetings with Iraqi President Saddam Husayn, RCC Deputy Chairman 'Izzat Ibrahim, and the other Iraqi leaders.

In a statement exclusive to AL-SHARQ AL-AWSAT Al-Rashid said that the two countries are on the threshold of a new, comprehensive phase of understanding and cooperation at all levels, and the heir apparent's statement on his feelings toward Iraq—president, leadership, and people—reflects the good intentions which the Kuwaitis—amir, government, and people—harbor toward their brothers throughout fraternal and neighboring Iraq.

Al-Rashid emphasized that the bonds and ties linking the two countries are much greater than imagined, as they transcend traditional formulas. Time has always proved, whether during or after the 8-year war, that they have transcended traditional and formal matters governing such issues.

Furthermore, the Kuwaiti minister said that his country has made its preparations in order to enable the Arab committee to succeed in solving the Lebanese crisis and is continuing to make contacts with all the parties in Lebanon and other Arab quarters in order to achieve a Lebanese reconciliation that would restore constitutionality to Lebanon.

The minister hinted that all possibilities are on the cards with regard to the nature of the move required after the meeting to be held in Kuwait on February 20, which will be attended by Lebanese religious leaders who will meet with Shaykh Sabah al-Ahmad al-Sabah, deputy prime minister and foreign minister.

Foreign Minister Welcomes Mubarak Visit

LD1602091389 Kuwait KUNA in English 1423 GMT 15 Feb 89

[Text] Kuwait, Feb 15 (KUNA)—Kuwait's Deputy Premier and Foreign Minister Shaykh Sabah al-Ahmad Wednesday welcomed a planned visit to Kuwait by Egyptian President Husni Mubarak.

"We welcome our brother, President Mubarak at any time," Shaykh Sabah told reporters in reference to a visit here by Mubarak late this month while on his way back from a trip to Japan.

Shaykh Sabah would not specify when the Egyptian president would arrive here, but well-placed sources said Mubarak was due in Kuwait on February 25.

Qatar

Soviet Economic Delegation Departs 15 Feb

JN1602084489 Manama WAKH in Arabic 2120 GMT 15 Feb 89

[Text] Doha, 15 Feb (WAKH)—A Soviet economic and trade delegation led by N. Yemokhonov, director general of the General Department for Economic Relations with Asia at the Foreign Economic Relations Ministry, left Doha for [name indistinct] this evening following a 3-day visit to Qatar. During the visit, the delegation held talks with Qatari officials aimed at enhancing economic and trade cooperation between the two countries. [passage indistinct]

Report on Cooperation Talks

JN1602134889 Manama WAKH in Arabic 0850 GMT 16 Feb 89

[Text] Doha, 16 Feb (WAKH)—Namik Yemokhonov, director general of the General Department for Economic Relations with Asia at the Foreign Economic Relations Ministry, said that the talks he held during his visit to Qatar, which ended yesterday, were positive and reflected response toward discussing the possibility of concluding an agreement for economic cooperation between the two countries.

Yemokhonov, who left Doha last night at the end of a 2-day visit to Qatar at the head of a delegation, said he expects an agreement would make available the appropriate circumstances for promoting economic relations between the two countries. Both sides need to make preparations for the signing of this agreement.

On the possibility of cooperation between the two countries in the field of gas production, the Soviet official told the Qatari newspaper AL-RAYAH in a statement published today, that the Soviet Union has considerable experience in extracting gas and modernizing its fields. We are ready to place all this experience and technical capabilities in the service of the State of Qatar, and we do not object, if there is a mutual desire, to coordinate in the field of gas marketing, he said.

The Soviet official considered the establishment of political and economic relations between the Soviet Union and a number of Arab Gulf states a natural product of developments. These relations, he said, are based on the principles of respecting state sovereignty and achieving mutual benefits.

Asked about the possibility of investment between the Arab Gulf states and the Soviet Union, which allows no private investment, the Soviet official said that the Soviet Union provides sufficient and full guarantees for the safety of investments. He said that legislations for this have been issued, and that the Soviet Union is ready to sign government agreements to insure investments should a mutual desire exist.

The Soviet delegation left Doha for Abu Dhabi on a visit to the UAE.

Saddam Receives Fahd Congratulations on Council
JN1602093389 Baghdad INA in Arabic 0835 GMT 16 Feb 89

[Text] Baghdad, 16 Feb (INA)—President Saddam Husayn today received congratulations from King Fahd ibn 'Abd al-'Aziz on the establishment of the Arab Cooperation Council. King Fahd conveyed his congratulations to President Saddam and through him to his brothers King Husayn, President Muhammad Husni Mubarak, and President 'Ali 'Abdallah Salih in a telephone call his majesty held with President Saddam Husayn today.

RCC Decree Amends National Assembly Election Law
JN1502200889 Baghdad AL-THAWRAH in Arabic 8 Feb 89 pp 1, 15

[Unattributed report: "The RCC Amends Conditions for Nominations to National Assembly Membership"]

[Text] The RCC issued Decree No 60 dated 4 February 1989. Following is the text of the decree:

In the name of God, the merciful, the compassionate.

The Revolution Command Council

Decree No 60, dated 4 February 1989

Based on the provisions of Paragraph A of Article 42 of the Constitution, the RCC in its session held on 4 February 1989 decrees the following:

First: Paragraphs A, C, D, F, and G of point 1 of Article 14 of the National Assembly Law No 55 for the year 1980 will be canceled and replaced by the following [lettering as received]:

A. Iraqi by birth born to parents who are Iraqis by birth and not foreigners; or Iraqi by birth born to an Iraqi father by birth, not foreigner, and an Arab mother who is a subject of an Arab country.

C. Believing in the principles and aims of the glorious 17-30 July revolution, and with effective, original contributions toward the sacred battle against the Iranian aggression, be it participation, volunteering, or contribution in fields of production or in the fields of thought and literary production—contributions that are commensurate with his resources and ability; and believing that Saddam's Al-Qadisiyah has crowned Iraq with glory and that it was the indispensable means to safeguard Iraqi territory, waters, airspace, security, and shrines.

C. 1. Must have completed his military service or released from duty.

2. Has not committed the crime of deserting military service or of failing to join military ranks during Saddam's Al-Qadisiyah war.

G. 1. Has not been convicted of the crime of plotting against the 17-30 July revolution of 1968 or against the regime, and has not attempted to overthrow the regime by contacting a foreign side.

2. Has not been convicted of a crime related to honor and has not been imprisoned after being convicted of a premedidated murder.

Second: Paragraph A of point 1 of Article 18 of the law will be canceled and replaced by the following:

A. If it is convinced that any of the candidates is not faithful to the principles and aims of the glorious 17-30 July revolution or does not believe that Saddam's Al-Qadisiyah has crowned Iraq with glory, that it is the indsipensable means of preserving Iraqi territory, waters, airspace, security, and shrines, or that his contributions toward the Saddam's Al-Qadisiyah battle is not commensurate with his resources and ability.

Third: Article 26 of the law will be canceled and will be replaced by the following:

Article 26:

The election supervision committee in each constituency will be chaired by a judge whose grade will not be below the second grade and to be chosen by the justice minister; and will have two representatives of the Arab Socialist Ba'th Party, a representative of each party running for elections in the constituency, a representative of the Ministry of Local Government in the constituency in governorates or a representative of the Baghdad Municipality in case the constituency is situated within the Baghdad city area.

Fourth: This decree will be effective from the date of its issuance.

Saddam Husayn, RCC chairman.

Ambassadorial Ties With Ethiopia To Resume
JN1102181089 Baghdad INA in English 1700 GMT 11 Feb 89

[Text] Baghdad, Feb. 11, INA—It was officially announced here that Iraq and Ethiopia decided to resume the relations between them at ambassadorial level.

An official statement issued by the Foreign Ministry said that the Iraqi and Ethiopian Governments decided to take measures to develop the relations between their two countries and peoples on the basis of mutual respect.

The statement, which will be announced simultaneously in the Ethiopian capital Addis Ababa and the capital Baghdad, added that the two Governments' decision is harmonious with the UN Charter, the international law and principles of non-alignment.

Cooperation Talks With Belgian Committee Begin
JN1502164289 Baghdad INA in English 1600 GMT 15 Feb 89

[Text] Baghdad, Feb. 15, INA—The Joint Iraqi-Belgian Committee for Scientific, Trade and Economic Cooperation started two-day meetings in Baghdad today.

The Iraqi side was chaired by director of the State Company for Medicines and Medical Supplies and the Belgian side by deputy director general of economic affairs at the Ministry of External Relations.

Two sub-committees branched from the committee to discuss means of promoting bilateral cooperation.

Speaking at the begining of the committee's meeting, head of the Iraqi side referred to the importance of developing economic and scientific relations between the two countries at this stage of Iraq's economic development.

Head of the Belgian side stressed his country's desire to enhance relations with Iraq and the possibility of reaching bilateral agreements.

The committee's agenda includes means of activating and expanding trade, economic and scientific relations and training of cadres between the two countries.

UN Observers Group Commander Arrives 16 Feb
JN1602132689 Baghdad INA in English 1230 GMT 16 Feb 89

[Text] Baghdad, Feb. 16, INA—The Yugoslav general, Slavko Jovic, chief of the United Nations Iraq-Iran Military Observers Group (UNIIMOG) who were assigned to supervise the ceasefire between Iraq and Iran, arrived here today from Tehran.

General Jovic's visit to Iraq comes within his weekly shuttle tour between Baghdad and Tehran.

CSSR Health Minister Departs for Kuwait
JN1302124489 Baghdad INA in English 1030 GMT 13 Feb 89

[Text] Baghdad, Feb. 13, INA—The Czechoslovak Health Minister Jaroslav Prokopec and his delegation left Baghdad for Kuwait this morning at the conclusion of a five-day visit to Iraq.

The guest minister expressed satisfaction over the results accomplished during the visit in the way that contributes to enhance and strengthen the bilateral relations in the medical and health fields.

He also said that cooperation between the two countries would witness big development in the future in the fields of qualifying and training medical and tehnical cadres, production of drugs, and carrying out advanced operations by the joint expertise in both countries.

He expressed admiration for the developed health and medical level that Iraq had achieved, which depicts the state of progress and stability attained by Iraq.

Presidential Decree Relieves Minister of State
JN1102174889 Baghdad INA in Arabic 1720 GMT 11 Feb 89

[Text] Baghdad, 11 Feb (INA)—It was announced here tonight that 'Abdallah Isma'il Ahmad has been relieved of his post of minister of state.

A presidential decree relieving the minister was issued today.

AL-THAWRAH Cited on Syria's 'Subversive Course'
JN1202113589 Baghdad INA in English 1010 GMT 12 Feb 89

[Text] Baghdad, Feb. 12, INA—AL-THAWRAH daily of Baghdad stressed that Syria incurred severe damages on Arab solidarity and violated the Arab League charter several times and "the Arabs should not maintain silence toward this dangerous subversive course of the Syrian regime towards the Arab nation."

A daily commentary here today said the Arabs could not maintain solidarity with the Syrian conspiratorial course in Lebanon, work against the Palestine issue, alliance with Iran, and desperate attempts to keep Egypt outside the positive Arab action, since Egypt has a big political, economic and military weight.

The daily stressed that the Syrian regime has become weak and isolated and that its logic of evil is outdated and no more effective.

Shamir Accepts Thatcher Invitation for Visit

TA1502174089 Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew 1700 GMT 15 Feb 89

[Text] Prime Minister Yitzhaq Shamir accepts the invitation extended by British Prime Minister Margaret Thatcher to visit London, but the visit will be postponed for the moment, probably until early summer. This is reported by our political correspondent 'Oded Ben-'Ami. The prime minister will visit Paris next week, and in early April he is scheduled to leave for Washington.

Yosi Ben-Aharon, the director general of the Prime Minister's Office, has told our political correspondent that the London visit should be thoroughly prepared. Because of this, Mr Shamir will not be able to stop over in London during his upcoming European tour.

British Foreign Secretary Sir Geoffrey Howe, on the other hand, has accepted his Israeli counterpart's invitation to visit Israel in late May.

During a news conference today in London, Minister Arens said that, unlike other countries, Britain is not waiting in line for a meeting with 'Arafat. Admittedly, William Waldegrave, British Foreign Office minister of state, has met with 'Arafat. However, neither the foreign secretary nor the prime minister are lining up to meet with him. This is the big difference between Britain and other countries.

Our London correspondent Avraham Barzilay reports that tomorrow Minister Arens will confer with the leaders of the British Jewish community, as well as with opposition leader Neil Kinnock, and Parliament members who are friends of Israel. He is scheduled to return to Israel tomorrow night.

Thatcher Remarks Praised

TA1602081789 Tel Aviv IDF Radio in Hebrew 0600 GMT 16 Feb 89

[Telephone interview with Foreign Minister Moshe Arens in London by Gad Becker—live]

[Text] [Becker] The PLO is not necessarily the sole representative of the Palestinians. This declaration by the British prime minister on the eve of her meeting with Israel's foreign minister was certainly pleasant for Minister Arens—who is completing his visit to London today—to hear. Good morning, Mr Arens.

[Arens] Good morning.

[Becker] You had meetings with Mrs Thatcher and her foreign secretary. What do her remarks about the PLO really mean?

[Arens] I think they mean that Mrs Thatcher has a good—I would even say deep—understanding of the complexity of the Middle East problems and an understanding of the dangers Israel is facing. This is in addition to a deep, even emotional, friendship with the State of Israel. All of this forms a good basis for talks with her.

[Becker] But when she utters such a statement, which is certainly not offhand, what does she mean? Who, in her opinion, can better represent the Palestinians, if there are any such people?

[Arens] I think she said in Parliament that the PLO does not necessarily represent and certainly is not the sole representative of the Palestinians. I believe that this is her true assessment. She has been known in recent years as a champion of the war against terrorism. She has no doubts when it comes to terrorist organizations. I believe that the remarks you quoted represent this approach.

[Becker] In your conversation, did you hear from her similar or identical remarks?

[Arens] Yes, I heard similar remarks.

[Becker] It is reasonable to assume that along with what could be called the carrot she extended, she also has demands from the Israelis. She said Israel must respond to initiatives and must adopt its own initiatives. What does she demand from Israel?

[Arens] First of all, I would not describe it as a carrot. I think it is her considered assessment of the situation in the region. She certainly wants the peace process to move forward. She believes it is important and even urgent. At the same time, she says that we must take the time to carefully consider the expected results and not be hasty. Once we are certain that the initiatives we take will bring positive results, only then should we initiate such processes. She made similar remarks in the British Parliament.

[Becker] Does she have concrete proposals for the Israeli side?

[Arens] She has proposals. She knows the area and she has a very good grasp of its problems and dangers. I therefore have no doubt that she can contribute. Aside from ideas, she also has a great deal of goodwill, which is also important.

[Becker] In general, Mrs Thatcher is known for her very down to earth temperament. Was your conversation with her philosophical or political? Was there any attempt to talk explicitly about actual trends or solutions?

[Arens] I believe the conversation was quite practical, but on the other hand, it was a long meeting in which we referred to many issues. I believe that what characterized the conversation was a high level of understanding—I do not wish to exaggerate and say agreement, but a great deal of understanding—between us.

[Becker] Mr Arens, Mrs Thatcher called for a political move by Israel. You are leaving in 2 to 3 weeks for Washington. We heard today that the Egyptian president is also going to be in Washington. The final question is: What is happening about the Israeli political initiative we heard so much about several weeks ago? When will it be presented to the world and to Israel?

[Arens] That is a question I am often asked, and I will repeat my explanation once again to you. Israel is the only democratic country in the region. We have to go through certain stages, which are an integral part of the democratic process: first elections, then the setting up the government, and now the government is holding a debate in order to formulate positions. If and when we decide on an initiative, the person who will present it will be the prime minister.

[Becker] Did you present Mrs Thatcher with the new ideas being developed in Jerusalem?

[Arens] I do not think it would have been a wise move, and she did not request it. She understood that when a position is adopted, it will be the prime minister who presents it, but that did not influence our deep and, I believe, useful conversation.

[Becker] A conversation that concluded with an invitation to the prime minister to visit London and a visit by the British foreign secretary here. Thank you, Mr Arens.

Al-Husayni Holds 2d Meeting With Labor Officials

TA1602123189 Tel Aviv MA'ARIV in Hebrew
16 Feb 89 pp A1, 2

[Report by Avino'am Bar-Yosef and 'Ofra Yeshu'a-Lyth]

[Excerpts] Faysal al-Husayni last night held another meeting with senior Labor Party officials, including two of Vice Prime Minister Shim'on Peres' closest advisers, in the framework of a series of meetings described by sources in East Jerusalem as "the PLO's offensive on Israeli public opinion."

On the Israeli side, the meeting was attended by Deputy Finance Minister Yosi Beilin; Peres' political adviser Nimrod Novik; Dr Efrayim Sene, former head of the Civil Administration in Judaea and Samaria; and several members of the Labor Party's Mashov Circle, including Dr Ya'ir Hirshfeld and Bo'az Karmi of the Kibbutz Movement. [passage omitted]

Last night's meeting between Al-Husayni and the Labor Party members was not coordinated with Knesset Member Hayim Ramon and former Justice Minister Hayim Tzadoq, who had conferred with Al-Husayni the night before. Aside from Al-Husayni, Sari Nusaybah, and Ziyad Abu Zayyad, last night's meeting was attended by five academics from the territories.

All participants presented a unanimous position on the obligation to include the PLO in the peace process and to attain a settlement in the framework of an international conference.

[In a report by Joel Greenberg on page 12, THE JERUSALEM POST in English on 16 February says the other participants were "Hanun Ashrawi and Ghassan Khatib, both of Bi'r Zayt; journalist Sam'an Khuri; Dr Mamduh 'Akkar; and Khalil Mahshi, principal of the Friends School in Ramallah."]

The Palestinians came out fervently in favor of negotiations with Israel and did not rule out the idea of holding elections, on the condition that any interim settlement attained be part of a comprehensive move in which Israel would recognize the right of Palestinians to establish an independent state in the territories.

The Israeli participants described the political difficulties stemming from the nature of the regime in Israel and the results of the Knesset elections and called on the Palestinians to demonstrate flexibility and take part in a realistic process that would be likely to muster a wide consensus. One of the participants described the meeting as a good one and said that he and his colleagues came out of it with the impression that this is the most moderate group in the territories and that it really and truly wants to promote the peace process and get the two peoples out of the maze in which they find themselves because of the prolonged conflict.

Palestinian sources in Jerusalem stated that upon his release from jail, Faysal al-Husayni set out to launch an all-out offensive on Israeli public opinion, placing the emphasis on the Zionist parties that enjoy wide public support. In the next few days, he is scheduled to meet with two reserve generals who have in the past come out in support of changing the attitude toward the PLO on the condition that the latter recognizes Israel's existence. The Palestinian sources pointed out that Al-Husayni also plans to launch talks with Likud members, in the hope that the latter are in a position to make greater concessions.

Al-Husayni's moves are being criticized by radical Palestinian elements, who fear that the opening of negotiations might temper the motivation of the local populace to pursue the intifadah [uprising] and that the Israelis might exploit the talks to their benefit. [passage omitted]

[Jerusalem Domestic Service in English at 0500 GMT on 16 February reports that "Labor Energy Minister Moshe Shahal says his meetings with Palestinians from the territories leave him with the impression that the Palestinians want a permanent settlement and peace without demanding land within the pre-1967 Green Line. The Labor minister made the comments during a visit to Qiryat Ata."

Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew at 0600 GMT on 16 February adds that "Yosi Beilin told his Palestinian interlocutors that the Israeli representatives at the meeting do not represent the government, the Labor Party, or Mr Peres himself, and differ from him on many political issues."

In a report by Ilan Shehori on page 2, Tel Aviv HA'ARETZ in Hebrew reports: "Minister Mordekhay Gur says he has been holding discrete meetings with inhabitants of the territories for the last 2 years, but these were never leaked to the media." Gur is quoted as saying: "From these talks I have learned that the distance between the position of the most moderate among us and them is enormous."]

Peres Supports Meetings

TA1602124989 Tel Aviv IDF Radio in Hebrew 1100 GMT 16 Feb 89

[Report by Gilat Levi]

[Text] While Finance Minister Shim'on Peres, the chairman of the Labor Party, was not updated on the details of the meeting between members of his party, including his deputy Yosi Beilin, and Palestinian personalities in the territories over the past 2 days, today he says: I support these meetings in retrospect and after the fact. I believe that we must meet with these people; let them meet and converse. When we asked the finance minister if he also plans to meet with personalities in the territories, he said: I first have to free myself from my duties in the Treasury, and afterward I will also meet with them.

We met the finance minister at a convention of the roof organization of high-tech industries in Nes Ziyyona.

Meetings Have 'No Importance'

TA1602133689 Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew 1200 GMT 16 Feb 89

[Text] The Prime Minister's Office reacts with disdain to the meetings between Knesset members and Palestinians in the territories. The Prime Minister's Office told our political correspondent 'Oded Ben-'Ami that these meetings have absolutely no importance and will lead nowhere. The prime minister does not plan at this stage to take any steps in response to these meetings.

Minister Weizman Discusses Talking to PLO

AU1302152889 Frankfurt/Main FRANKFURTER RUNDSCHAU in German 13 Feb 89 p 6

[Interview with Science Minister 'Ezer Weizman by Hal Wyner: "It Has Been Understood That There Is No Military Solution"; date, place not given]

[Text] FR [FRANKFURTER RUNDSCHAU]: Minister Weizman, how have you reached the conclusion that Israel has to talk with the PLO?

Weizman: In my view, Israel's future lies in making peace with the Arab world. The central question in this respect is the Palestinian problem. For 21 years, since the 1967 6-Day War, the political parties in Israel—and I include myself in this—have not faced the problem. One attempt was made with the Camp David Agreement, but it was paralyzed if not torpedoed by Menahem Begin himself. I even think that Begin resigned for this reason—because he realized what he had signed at Camp David: the renunciation of "Greater Israel," an obligation to withdraw from at least parts of the West Bank and the Gaza Strip.

Thus, 10 years have been wasted and now unfortunately—or fortunately—the intifadah [uprising] has come. Even though it is not a war, it is a violent conflict; and the only possibility to end this conflict is a political solution.

FR: In this respect, you certainly agree with the Likud.

Weizman: Yes, Prime Minister Shamir, Foreign Minister Arens, and Defense Minister Rabin all say that they have a solution, but with whom do they want to discuss it? If anyone believes that the population of the West Bank and the Gaza Strip will choose an independent leadership, he does not understand the situation. The only leadership that has the necessary authority to implement an agreement—no matter what it is like—are the PLO and Yasir 'Arafat. And if I am asked: "Do you trust 'Arafat?" I can only say: "How the hell should I know since I have never seen the man and have never talked with him?"

FR: Because of such statements, you have recently been harshly criticized, also by members of your own party. Do you think that you will find support in the government for this?

Weizman: I have my doubts. However, I think that in the end people will understand that this is what will happen. The interesting question now is: What will the United States do? President Bush has been in office for less than 1 month, and after such a short time one cannot expect him to know exactly what is going on in Nablus or Hebron. He has his own problems. However, sometime in May, June, or July, after Shamir will have been to Washington and Arens will have been to Washington and President Mubarak will have started to tell the Americans a few things, thinking will set in.

I do not want to speak for the Egyptians, but it may well be that one day they will come to the Americans—or perhaps I will come to the Americans—and say: The peace treaty with Egypt and the Camp David Agreement were not just signed by President al-Sadat and Prime Minister Begin, but also by Jimmy Carter. You are partners in the whole game. What will you do now?

FR: You consider it unlikely that Israel will find its way alone?

Weizman: With all respect to ourselves, we in Israel always say that we want "direct negotiations"—but peace with Egypt did not come about through direct negotiations either. We were not able to achieve anything in direct negotiations with the Egyptians. We needed a mediator, a certain amount of help, and also a certain pressure. When Begin, Dayan, and Weizmann were taken to Camp David together with Al-Sadat and his team and were locked up there for 12 days—if one does not want to call this pressure, I do not know what pressure is.

FR: This time, however, it seems that the Russians also want to play a role. Would you agree to that?

Weizman: Certainly, why not. Even the prime minister said so. The Russians have not always had a negative attitude toward us. We waged the 1948 independence war primarily with Russian weapons, that is, with CSSR weapons, but with Moscow's permission. If now, the Russians can help to find a solution that is not detrimental to Israel—and I do not see why it should be detrimental to Israel—I am fully in favor of this.

FR: An international conference.

Weizman: I do not care what it is called. Direct negotiations are difficult. Thus, if an international conference is necessary, if only the Russians and the Americans participate, or the Chinese and the Taiwanese, or God knows whom—it does not make any difference. The important thing is that we talk to each other and find a solution.

FR: Yitzhaq Rabin has always been against talks with the PLO because he thought that this is the first step toward establishing a Palestinian state. Is this the solution that will come in the end?

Weizman: Here, too, I am not afraid of terminology. One cannot go to a conference with fear, as one cannot go into a war with fear. Sometimes I am astonished at my colleagues, who are going to war much more easily than they are participating in a peace conference. They talk about free elections in the occupied territories in order to choose a new Palestinian leadership. What do they want to talk about with this new leadership? Or one talks about a confederation with Jordan. But with whom should Jordan form a confederation? One can form a confederation—no matter in which form—only with a political unit.

Whatever will be the solution, it must be based on UN Security Council Resolution 242, and this means the return of territories that were "acquired" in 1967. I do not say "all territories" and neither do I say "the territories," but I say "territories."

Whatever the solution will look like, it should not pose any danger to Israel. This is possible. The Sinai Peninsula, for instance, is Egyptian territory, which has not been totally demilitarized, but military presence there is limited. If we can achieve this with the sovereign state of Egypt, of which we do not even know what it will be—a state, a canton, or God knows what [sentence as published]. I want to sit down and talk about the various possibilities.

I want to reach an agreement that also brings us closer to peace with Jordan and, Insh'allah, with Iraq and Syria, which will not be easy either.

I want to be part of the Middle East, where I can freely travel to the neighboring countries, conduct trade there, and also amuse myself.

FR: This is a nice idea, but sometimes it rather seems as if there were no way toward this.

Weizman: Look, saying "no way" leads to war. If we are not careful, it may be that the Arab world will again grow fed up with the situation and say: The world is not interested, neither the Russians nor the Americans are doing anything, and the Israelis are not even ready to talk about a solution. If this happens—even though it may take another 10 years—we will look back to today, longing for the stones and bottles.

FR: Talking about stones: Do you think that the intifadah has been dealt with correctly?

Weizman: I do not want to comment on this. This is not easy. When one has trained soldiers and stones and bottles are thrown at them.... Some Arab countries have solved the problem differently. Husayn, for instance, killed about 6,000 Palestinians. "Black September" did not get its name from something we did, but from what Husayn did to the Palestinians. No, thank you.

Last year, much could have been done differently, but I am not defense minister, and I do not want to start criticizing. But now it has at least been understood that there is no military solution, if we do not want to go totally crazy and brutal.

FR: However, before one can start negotiations, some sort of cease-fire will have to be concluded.

Weizman: Not necessarily. First, no one uses weapons but, as I said, only stones and bottles. Second, if I am not mistaken, Henry Kissinger talked with the Vietnamese in Paris while the war in Vietnam was still in full swing.

FR: Recently Shamir has again started giving rather inflammatory speeches, in which he says that Israel will not let itself be pushed by anyone, or that "Eretz Israel" and the state of Israel are identical. Do you think that he, too, will relent?

Weizman: Sometimes situations force one to change. Moshe Dayan once said: I prefer Sharm-al-Shaykh [southernmost point of the Sinai Peninsula] without peace over peace without Sharm-al-Shaykh. However, he had a decisive share in the fact that today we have peace without Sharm-al-Shaykh.

As regards Shamir's speeches, he is holding them with a view to the forthcoming local elections. You used the term "inflammatory," not I. However, you are right. Nevertheless, one can be inflammatory on Sunday and change one's mind on Monday. The problem is that one breeds much ill blood with this and also creates misunderstandings among one's own people. At present, the average Israeli is "bemuselt" as one says in Yiddish—he simply does not know what to think.

FR: Did you agree with the decision of the Labor Party to join the Shamir government?

Weizman: At the beginning I was against it, but in view of the election results it was perhaps the best of all bad solutions. I do not know. But at the moment, and despite all criticism, I still prefer having Rabin as the one responsible for dealing with the intifadah than anyone else. I would prefer someone else besides Arens to be responsible for foreign policy, but one cannot have everything.

FR: Will the Labor Party be able to influence foreign policy?

Weizman: At the moment I would say: Not much. But we are only at the beginning. I hope and pray—I mean this seriously, not cynically—that Shamir and Arens will find a way. It would be a miracle—but, after all, nobody expected Begin to return the entire Sinai. But he did it.

FR: However, the coalition agreement contains a few things, such as the founding of new settlements, which do not suggest a similar development concerning the West Bank.

Weizman: There are so many things in the coalition agreement. They all are not that important. The central question is and remains: Will the Israeli Government come to understand that we already accepted Resolution 242 in 1967 and, even more definitively, in 1977 and 1978? Begin signed an agreement with Egypt that is based on Resolution 242. The Israeli Government must be aware what this means: the return of at least part of the West Bank and the Gaza Strip.

Of course, the problem is that at that time Arens voted against the Camp David Agreement in the Knesset and Shamir abstained from the vote. Thus, now we have a situation in which the cats are guarding the milk.

FR: And why have the religious parties also been accepted into the coalition? Was this necessary?

Weizman: Of course, it would have been better to have only Likud and the Labor Party in the government and to leave all the small parties outside. However, the two big parties know that if they ever want to form a government without the other big party under our current election system, they cannot do so without the religious parties. They are not needed for this government, but perhaps for the next. Therefore, everyone is trying to ingratiate himself with the religious parties. Sometimes one gets a bit sick watching this, but that is life.

FR: Is there a realistic hope that this government will change the election system?

Weizman: There is the hope. However, the question of to what extent this hope is realistic is a highly philosophical one.

Rabin on Arab Military Buildup, 'Uprising'

TA1502173889 Tel Aviv IDF Radio in Hebrew 1500 GMT 15 Feb 89

[Text] The Arab countries spend between $30 and $60 billion per year on a military buildup aimed against Israel, said Defense Minister Yitzhaq Rabin. He was addressing the national convention of the Soldier's Welfare Society volunteers a short while ago. Our correspondent Amir Fink reports from Bet Hahayal in Tel Aviv:

[Begin recording] [Fink] The arms race in the Middle East is currently the hottest and most intense in the world. This was stated a short while ago by Defense Minister Yitzhaq Rabin, who addressed the national convention of volunteers for the Soldier's Welfare Society. Minister Rabin added that the Arab countries spend between $30 and $60 billion a year on their military buildup.

[Rabin] At present, Syria, Iraq, and Saudi Arabia can launch surface-to-surface missiles outfitted with warheads weighing between 500 kg and 1 ton at Tel Aviv. Syria's launching pads are located north of Damascus; Iraq can also launch from its territory without entering Jordanian soil; while Saudi Arabia can launch from its own territory with a range upwards of 1,500 km.

[Fink] Minister Rabin then addressed the uprising in the territories, saying that 85 percent of the violent incidents in the territories involve stone throwings. Between 60 and 70 percent of the stone throwers are 14 to 16 years of age.

IDF spokesman Brigadier General Efrayim Lapid also spoke to the volunteers. Referring to the uprising in Judaea, Samaria, and the Gaza District, he said that only a handful of the reservists will actually be asked to serve 60 days, which is presently the maximum number of reserve days allowed in the IDF. As for the share of the defense budget needed for the intifadah [uprising], Gen Lapid said that in relative terms this is little, although in absolute terms it is a lot of money. [end recording]

Egyptian Ambassador on Tabah Talks, Peace Issue
JN1502203889 Jerusalem in Arabic to the Arab World 1530 GMT 15 Feb 89

[Interview with Muhammad Basyuni, Egyptian ambassador to Israel, by Yehodet Budek, radio correspondent for political affairs—recorded; date, place not given]

[Excerpts] [Basyuni] In my assessment, there has been progress in the Tabah talks. God willing, on 26 [month not specified] we will complete these talks. I am optimistic that at this date we will reach an agreement on the hotel and the tourist facilities in the Tabah area as well as the arrangements to enter this area. The general principle with regard to Egypt is that sovereignty was completely decided in Egypt's favor in light of the arbitration decision. Measures will be taken to activate tourism in the area. One of Egypt's general principles is to encourage tourism all over Egypt.

[Budek] Mr Basyuni, you said that Egypt is interested in encouraging tourism. What is the number of entry visas granted by the Egyptian Embassy in Tel Aviv to Israeli citizens who want to visit Cairo?

[Basyuni] The embassy in Tel Aviv granted 90,000 visas in 1987. And in 1988, the embassy granted 80,000 visas. In 1989, the figure will return to the 1987 figure, that is 90,000 visas. [passage omitted]

[Budek] Mr Basyuni, it is known that you meet every now and then with Palestinian personalities, what is your assessment of these meetings?

[Basyuni] I believe that the Palestinian brothers really want peace, not capitulation. They want peace based on justice. I am sure that the PLO has presented what the world asked it to present. We now want Israel to respond to the peace calls.

[Budek] Foreign Minister Moshe Arens has recently stated that relations between Israel and Egypt are the basis for achieving a comprehensive peace in the region. What is your opinion on this statement?

[Basyuni] Egypt, in fact, has a distinguished position. Egypt has peaceful relations with Israel. Egypt has excellent relations with His Majesty King Husayn. Egypt has excellent relations with the PLO. Egypt also has excellent relations with the eastern and western countries. Therefore, Egypt can play a prominent role in the peace process.

[Budek] Mr Arens said relations between Israel and Egypt must improve to constitute a solid ground for achieving a comprehensive peace in the region.

[Basyuni] We believe that peace between Egypt and Israel is a first step on the path of a comprehensive and lasting peace in the region. We did not sign the peace agreement between Egypt and Israel to achieve a separate peace. It was a step on the path to comprehensive peace. Undoubtedly, any progress in the peace march will certainly have a positive effect on Egyptian-Israeli relations. [passage omitted]

Lubrani Denies Role in Death of Junblatt Aide
TA1502212989 Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew 2100 GMT 15 Feb 89

[Excerpt] Uri Lubrani, the coordinator of government activities in Lebanon, has rejected Walid Junblatt's accusations that Israel is behind the death of one of his assistants. Lubrani said that when Junblatt accuses Israel, what he really means is Syria. [passage omitted]

Romanian Envoy Gives Messages to Sharon, Shamir
TA1502132889 Tel Aviv HADASHOT in Hebrew 15 Feb 89 p 5

[Report by Navit Sommer]

[Text] Ion Stoian, a special envoy from the Romanian president, conferred with Industry and Trade Minister Ari'el Sharon in his office in Jerusalem. The envoy gave Sharon a personal message from Romanian President Nicolae Ceausescu requesting closer trade and economic ties between the two countries. Stoian also met Prime Minister Yitzhaq Shamir and gave him a diplomatic message.

Sharon made clear to Stoian that relations must be based on reciprocity, and that the gap in the trade balance between the two countries must be bridged. Imports from Romania in 1988 reached $34 million while exports were $11 million.

Religious Affairs Minister Visits Hungary
TA1202075189 Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew 0700 GMT 12 Feb 89

[Text] This morning Religious Affairs Minister Zvulun Hammer will place a wreath at the holocaust victims' memorial in Budapest. Tomorrow he will begin discussing the strengthening of cultural ties between the two countries with his Hungarian hosts.

Our correspondent Avraham Ben-Melekh reports that Minister Hammer arrived in Budapest around midnight last night to start an official visit to Hungary. He was received by the Hungarian religious affairs minister.

Visit Concludes
TA1502193189 Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew 1800 GMT 15 Feb 89

[Text] Religious Affairs Minister Zvulun Hammer concluded an official visit to Hungary today. In the course of his visit, Hammer met Hungarian Prime Minister Miklos

Nemeth. Hammer also formulated an extensive plan for cooperation on synagogue and cemetery renovation in Hungary with his local counterpart, Imre Miklos.

Delegation Goes to Hungary for Talks on Flights
TA1302061189 Jerusalem Domestic Service in English 0500 GMT 13 Feb 89

[Excerpt] An Israeli delegation has left for Hungary for meetings on setting up direct flights on a regular basis between the two countries. The agreement is expected to be signed at the end of this month, when Hungary's transport minister arrives in this country as a guest of his Israeli counterpart, Moshe Qatzav. [passage omitted]

Sharon Urges Arrest of E. Jerusalem PLO Members
TA1602100289 Jerusalem THE JERUSALEM POST in English 15 Feb 89 p 2

[Report by Knesset correspondent Asher Wallfish]

[Text] Industry Minister Ari'el Sharon yesterday called for the arrest of the "East Jerusalem Arabs who form the political arm of the PLO," saying it was the surest way to end the intifadah [uprising].

Sharon told the newly-organized parliamentary group which calls itself "The Eretz Israel Front" that it was a matter of "silencing the 50 ringleaders in East Jerusalem along with no more than a hundred followers."

The minister told the 23 MKs [Knesset members] from five factions, mainly Likud, that Israeli law must be applied to the whole of Judaea and Samaria, and legislative changes must be made to enable firmer measures against the intifadah. This was taken to refer to simpler deportation procedures without the right of appeal.

"Israel faces its most critical situation in 40 years," he warned. "We are approaching a Munich-type sellout in which Israel is slated to play the part of Czechoslovakia, according to the scenario of the U.S. and the European Community."

Sharon said the authorities had not done enough to stop PLO money from reaching "Arab extremists in Israel and the territories," while the banks which enabled the PLO funds to come in were raking in profits on the transfers.

Calling for additional settlement in the territories, he said the purpose of this should be primarily to "prevent Palestinian territorial continuity which might enable the formation of a state."

Minister Olmert on Israeli Arabs' Violence
TA1502181689 Tel Aviv IDF Radio in Hebrew 1700 GMT 15 Feb 89

[Text] There have been 36 terror acts since November 1988. This was reported by Minister [Without Portfolio] Ehud Olmert who is in charge of Arab affairs. During the past 4 months, 7 firebombs were hurled; 12 arsons were committed; 2 residents were attacked; and 3 explosive charges were planted. All these incidents have taken place within the territory of Israel. Our correspondent in the Knesset Dov Gilhar reports that a total of 150 incidents of violence and disturbing the peace were registered since last November.

[Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew at 1705 GMT on 15 February adds that "Minister Olmert said at the Knesset today that recently a trend toward the extreme has been noted among certain parts of the Israeli Arabs. This trend sometimes finds its expression in violence. The minister noted, however, that attributing a tendency of disloyalty to the whole Arab population would not do it justice and may even prove dangerous." "One cannot ignore the fact that a tendency exists among parts of the Israeli Arab citizens toward identifying with the political goals of the residents of Judaea, Samaria, and the Gaza Strip, the minister said."]

Settlers End Sit-In, Demand Tougher Measures
TA1602134389 Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew 1200 GMT 16 Feb 89

[Text] Settlement leaders in Judaea, Samaria, and the Gaza Strip ended their 64-day sit-in strike opposite the Prime Minister's Office. They told a news conference that their strike resulted in a debate in the Cabinet and the defense establishment on methods to deal with the uprising, and the adoption of tougher measures.

Our correspondent Moti Amir reports that the Judaea, Samaria, and Gaza Strip Settlers Council sent the prime minister a letter with demands that have not not yet been met. These demands include expelling instigators—including terrorists released in the deal with Jibril—easing procedures for deportations, closing East Jerusalem newspapers, and banning organizations operating under the cover of charities.

Police Comptroller: Civil Guard Not Ready for War
TA1302062489 Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew 0500 GMT 13 Feb 89

[Text] A Police Affairs Ministry comptroller's report on the Civil Guard has found that the units are not prepared for war. The report, presented to Police Affairs Minister Hayim Bar-Lev, found that none of the units, except for one in Rehovot, have on hand the instructions for dealing with planned operations or events such as aircraft hijackings or infiltrations by terrorists using hang gliders and balloons or vehicles. The comptroller says that all the base commanders and most General Staff officers did not even know about the existence of such operational orders.

Comptroller 'Adan also points out that at most of the units investigated, aside from the base in Tiberias and Milchen base in Rehovot, the files containing instructions for day and night action were incomplete or were not updated. A check of the kits prepared for a state of emergency found that, in three urban districts, there were no kits at all.

'High Level of Coordination' in Issuing Leaflets

TA1602100489 Jerusalem THE JERUSALEM POST in English 16 Feb 89 p 1

[Report by Middle East editor Yehuda Litani]

[Text] Leaflets issued during the intifadah [uprising] by the United Leadership of the Uprising are being sent from Europe via facsimile, after each receives PLO Chairman Yasir 'Arafat's seal of approval, Israeli officials said yesterday.

Their revelation provides a unique glimpse into the high level of coordination that has evolved between the PLO leadership in the territories and abroad.

A draft of each leaflet is first drawn up in the territories by a committee of the uprising leadership, and sent by facsimile abroad, via Europe to Tunis, Israeli officials said.

There it is reviewed by a PLO committee, which functions parallel to the United Leadership here. That committee has representatives from all of the major PLO factions. Besides approving the proposed leaflets, the committee also directs and coordinates daily intifadah activities.

Conflicting Casualty Tolls Given for 'Uprising'

TA1502153889 Tel Aviv HA'OLAM HAZE in Hebrew 15 Feb 89 p 10

[Report by Orit Zrubavel]

[Text] The differing sources for the number of casualties in the uprising have each passed another century mark this week.

On Monday, 13 February, the IDF spokesman reported 301 Palestinian casualties in the occupied territories. This figure includes only people killed by IDF gunfire.

According to HA'OLAM HAZE's count, the number of Palestinian deaths has crossed the 400 mark and now stands at 402.

Palestinian sources, on the other hand, claim 500 have been killed so far, according to the following breakdown:

—339 killed by shots fired by IDF soldiers and settlers;

—71 killed as a result of tear gas inhalation;

—42 killed by beatings and electrocutions;

—48 killed from other causes.

Further on Incidents, Casualties in Territories

'Dozens' Held for Incitement

TA1502155689 Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew 1500 GMT 15 Feb 89

[Text] Last night the security forces arrested dozens of Judaea residents suspected of incitement, subversive activity, and organizing disturbances. Our correspondent Arye Gus reports that the current wave of arrests is a part of the preventive operations that have been adopted by the security forces in anticipation of the general strike expected next week in accordance with leaflet No 34.

This leaflet calls for a 3-day strike in protest over Minister Rabin's phased plan and for attacks on security forces. Our correspondent adds that the security forces recently uncovered a number of terror squads in Samaria whose members attacked residents who cooperated with Israel, endangered public transport, threw firebombs, and planted an explosive charge.

2 Wounded in Disturbances

TA1502180289 Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew 1700 GMT 15 Feb 89

[Text] Two Arabs were wounded in today's disturbances in Judaea, Samaria, and the Gaza District. An Arab youth who was about to hurl a huge rock at a soldier on patrol was shot and wounded in Ramallah this morning. A Rafah youth was injured in a stoning incident. Our correspondent Arye Gus reports that apart from these incidents, generally, a relative quiet prevailed in the territories today.

Update on 15 Feb Incidents

TA1602105489 Jerusalem THE JERUSALEM POST in English 16 Feb 89 p 12

[Report by Joel Greenberg, Mikhal Sela', and Andy Court]

[Excerpts] The IDF yesterday sealed a house in a West Bank refugee camp, and served notice that it would seal or demolish eight other homes belonging to families of Palestinians who were recently arrested on suspicion of attacking suspected "collaborators," hurling petrol bombs, and planting explosive devices. [In a report by Dani Tzidqoni and Dani Rubinstein on page 2, Tel Aviv DAVAR in Hebrew on 16 February reports that "the IDF sealed the houses of four youngsters charged with throwing stones and firebombs. Two other houses were sealed in Nabulus, one of them in the 'Ayn Bayt al-Ma' refugee camp."]

In clashes yesterday with protesters, troops shot and wounded seven people in the West Bank and eight in the Gaza Strip, according to Palestinian reports. The IDF confirmed one casualty. In East Jerusalem three tourists were slightly hurt when their bus was stoned. [passage omitted]

In clashes in Ramallah, troops shot and wounded a local youth. Military sources said the youth was shot as he prepared to throw a cinderblock at troops.

[In a report by Uri'el Ben-'Ami, Ayelet Mazor, and Yo'av Aviv on page 2, Tel Aviv 'AL HAMISHMAR in Hebrew on 16 February adds: "A violent demonstration took place yesterday in the village of 'Askar, in the course of which three local inhabitants were wounded by IDF gunfire. Demonstrations also occurred in the Al-Fari'ah and Balatah refugee camps in the Nabulus area, and Arab sources report that an inhabitant of Al-Fari'ah was shot in the head." The report goes on to say that "in Nabulus, an IDF patrol car was slightly damaged when a firebomb was thrown at it." In addition, "a bus driving settlers was pelted with stones in Al-Birah. One of the passengers opened fire, wounding a local inhabitant who was taken to a hospital. There were riots last night in 'Isawiyah adjacent to Jerusalem's French Hill neighborhood, and the Army subsequently clamped a curfew on the village. A firebomb was thrown at a military vehicle in the Al-Am'ari refugee camp near Bethlehem, but no damage was caused. The security forces cordoned off thousands of dunams of land in the villages of Tammun, Tayasir, 'Ayn al-Bayda', and Tubas in Samaria, leading Arab sources to fear that the IDF intends to confiscate the land."]

The Nabulus military court sentenced a local youth to two and a half years in jail and fined him NIS [new Israeli shekels] 2,000 after convicting him of stone-throwing, tyre-burning, and setting up barricades. A military court in Janin sentenced a youth to two and a half years in prison and fined him NIS 1,500 after convicting him of hurling empty bottles at an IDF patrol. A 65-year-old man caught with a Palestinian flag was sentenced in Nabulus to two months in jail and was fined NIS 500.

In the morning, two 14-year-old boys were wounded in Gaza and six more were wounded in an afternoon clash. Palestinians reported that in the process of quelling the disturbance in Al-Shati', soldiers entered a home where they beat four men and four women, after failing to find the boys who were suspected of throwing stones.

In Jabalyah, soldiers on Tuesday night destroyed two tents which had been donated to families whose houses were destroyed. The families of Jamil Abu-Ghaban and Jamil Nawfal were demolished about six weeks ago and the Red Cross gave each family a tent until they find appropriate housing. [sentence as published] [passage omitted]

Some 50 Arab lawyers staged a sit-in strike near the Red Cross headquarters in Al-Shaykh Jarrah yesterday, protesting the recent killing and wounding of prisoners at the Megido and Qetzi'ot (Ansar III) facilities. The Arab lawyers have boycotted West Bank military courts for almost six weeks, demanding that the authorities make a variety of improvements in the military justice system.

[In a report by Dani Tzidqoni and Dani Rubinstein on page 2, Tel Aviv DAVAR in Hebrew on 16 February notes: "AL-SHA'B announced last night that the newspaper's offices in Nabulus were closed down by a military decree."]

Scientists Say Ofeq-1 'Complete Success'

TA1602112789 Jerusalem THE JERUSALEM POST in English 16 Feb 89 p 2

[Report by aviation correspondent Joshua Brilliant]

[Text] Two scientists who analyzed the operation of Israel's first satellite, Ofeq-1, concluded it had been "a complete success, from the successful launch through the almost flawless operation during its stay in space orbit."

There had been only one malfunction durings its four-month life span and some of the findings were surprising, they reported.

The scientists are Moshe Barlev, manager of the space technology department of MBT System & Space Technology of the Israel Aircraft Industries, and his assistant Jerry Wittenstein. They reported their findings in a paper presented to the 30th Israel Annual Conference on Aviation and Astronautics, which opened here yesterday.

The two wrote that the satellite was designed to be "a demonstration of technology and proof of Israeli capability to design, manufacture and launch space-systems."

Indicating that in some respects it had performed better than expected, the two noted that since its launch on September 19 it had been in orbit for 118 days, compared with the 90 days originally anticipated.

Ofeq-1 "operated successfully for the entire mission, up to loss of signal at the last available communication pass, before its final decay," they said.

The only malfunction occurred in the telemetry memory, but the computer "successfully reconfigured the telemetry memory to the backup mode," they added.

Experts were surprised by the high current recorded several times when Ofeq-1 was charged. It happened only during sunrises, and the experts speculated that the sudden exposure to a burst of solar energy caused the jump. Wittenstein and Barlev said that experts simulated the sunrise effect on panels at their test facility and proved the theory.

A map they attached to their report showed that Ofeq-1 flew across the Mediterranean, then southwest over Panama to New Zealand. It then turned to fly over Australia, India, the Persian Gulf and Iraq. At its lowest point it was at an altitude of 248 kilometres and at its highest, 1,170 kilometres.

Wittenstein and Barlev are to make their oral presentation this morning when the conference convenes at the Technion in Haifa. The conference ends today.

Upgrade in U.S. Talks With PLO Supported

TA1402153589 Jerusalem AL-FAJR in English 13 Feb 89 p 4

[Editorial: "The U.S.-PLO Dialogue Is a Means, Not an End"]

[Text] On December 15, the United States Government began a dialogue with the Palestine Liberation Organization after the latter met the three U.S. conditions put to it for such dialogue. When the PLO took this step, i.e. agreed to U.S. conditions, it had a goal in mind: reaching through dialogue with the U.S. a comprehensive and just settlement to the Arab-Israeli conflict. The PLO did not agree to the conditions under duress or out of weakness, but simply to save this region and its people the misery of further wars and conflict and bring prosperity, stability, security and harmony to all Middle East peoples.

Two months later, and with the presence of a new U.S. Administration, the U.S.-PLO dialogue is still at square one, in spite of PLO and, in general, Arab efforts to move it forward and speed up the peace process. The reason for this is the U.S. deflection of the dialogue from its intended course, which is to bring the warring Middle East parties to the negotiating table. Instead the U.S. has turned it to peripheral issues, such as terrorism. By doing this, the U.S. is actually retarding the peace process rather than moving it forward and making the dialogue appear as an end in itself, rather than a means to a highly valued goal.

It could be that the U.S. is not really interested in finding a quick solution to the Middle East conflict, and is therefore stalling by directing attention away from it to side issues. Regardless of U.S. reasons behind not moving the U.S.-PLO talks forward and raising the level of these talks, as the PLO and the Arab governments keep demanding, the retention of talks in their current form is unacceptable.

After seeing the U.S. State Department report on human rights violations in the occupied territories, it has become difficult for us to believe that the U.S. is not really interested in seeing an end to Israeli occupation of the West Bank and Gaza. The report was highly critical of Israeli violations and stated clearly and in some detail most of these violations. This has brought hope that finally the U.S. has opted to address the occupation issue more openly and hold Israel responsible for what is happening in these areas. And for this reason the expectation is high that the U.S. is actually interested in resolving the Middle East conflict, and is not only stalling.

This U.S. report should be followed by action. Such action can come in the form of raising the level of and increasing the talks with the PLO. It can come in the form of pressure on Israel to take a more flexible position toward Palestinian demands which the U.S. recognizes.

The U.S. should stop attempting to play up to Israeli pressures and actively seek a just settlement. By opening dialogue with the PLO in December, the U.S. gave a great and unprecedented push forward and encouragement to peace efforts. Every government in this world, with the exception of Israel, applauded this U.S. move. This proves that everyone is as anxious as the Palestinians to see the Arab-Israeli conflict come to end.

Talking about side issues and neglecting the real problem is not of interest to the Palestinian people, and the PLO is not obliged to have to explain everything that happens in this world or every disaster that takes place. The dialogue should take the form it was intended for and should seek the goal it intends. Otherwise, it can degenerate into uselessness and no one will be blamed for ending it other than the U.S. Government.

Cabinet Approves Law Abrogating Moneychanging
JN1102204889 Amman Domestic Service in Arabic 1900 GMT 11 Feb 89

[Text] Amman—The Council of Ministers has approved a law abrogating the moneychanging law in Jordan, whereby this law will abrogate all moneychanging work and all instructions and decisions issued according to Law No 52 of 1976.

The council also approved an amending order to amend the Lawyers Association's bylaws.

Central Bank Official on Foreign Currency
JN1202111289 Amman SAWT AL-SHA'B in Arabic 12 Feb 89 p 1, 12

[Text] Amman—SAWT AL-SHA'B—Mahir Shukri, assistant governor of the Central Bank, has said that the general banking situation is excellent, that banks have succeeded in filling the vacuum created after the closing down of the moneychangers, and that foreign currency circulation among citizens has stabilized. This stability will continue from now on because the citizen has started to find his foreign currency requirements at the banks.

Dr Shukri added that dealing with the banks is easy and balanced. The supply of foreign currency to the citizens exceeds demand despite the shortage of remittances at this time of the year.

In answer to a question on the reason for the quick balance supplied by the banks, the assistant Central Bank governor said that was a result of ending and eliminating speculation. This is what harmed the market and led to closing down the moneychangers since demand on foreign currency was not normal.

On the high price of gold despite fixing the dollar against the dinar, Dr Shukri said that this encourages citizens to sell the gold they have and rebuy it when the gold price drops.

On the other hand, Dr Shukri said that 10 specialized committees have been formed which are entrusted with auditing, checking, and taking inventories of the moneychangers which were closed recently under orders from the general military governor.

It is expected that these committees will start their work today and finish within one week.

Al-Rifa'i Gets Support on Moneychangers Decision
JN1302075889 Amman PETRA-JNA in Arabic 1430 GMT 13 Feb 89

[Text] Amman, 12 Feb (PETRA)—Prime Minister Zayd al-Rifa'i has received cables of support for the government's decision to close moneychangers in Jordan.

The senders of these cables, who represent various popular oganizations and businessmen in the Kingdom, expressed satisfaction with this wise step, which is aimed at maintaining the stability of economic conditions in the Kingdom and ending the meddling with the national economy.

The senders of the cables affirmed that the government's decision has insured the citizens' foreign currency needs. They also expressed hope that Jordan, under the enlightened wise leadership of His Majesty King Husayn, will overcome the recent anomalous economic conditions, remain a strong shield in defense of the Arab homeland, and again become an oasis of economic prosperity.

Moneychangers Decision 'Overwhelmingly Supported'
JN1302082589 Amman JORDAN TIMES in English 12 Feb 89 p 3

[Excerpt] Amman (J.T.)—The government's decision to revoke the licences of all non-bank exchange firms and to close down their offices after seizing their books and records has been instrumental in bringing about stability in the exchange rate of the Jordanian dinar against the U.S. dollar and other foreign currencies, and putting an end to speculations in the money markets that had prevailed in Jordan recently, according to the JORDAN NEWS AGENCY, PETRA.

According to PETRA, the government's move was overwhelmingly supported by the public in general and the banks, merchants, importers and exporters in particular, especially as the official rate of the dollar is now fixed at 538 fils for selling and 542 fils for buying.

PETRA quoted bankers as saying that the government's move was inevitable in view of the malpractices and misbehaviour of the moneychangers and the profiteering which brought about an unwarranted rise in the rate of exchange of the U.S. dollar.

The government's decision, the bankers said, has now created stability in the market and reinstated more confidence in Jordan's monetary circles.

Through banks in general and the Central Bank in particular, citizens and merchants can now deal with greater ease in foreign currency because these institutions provide greater guarantees for any transactions and offer amounts of foreign currency required for trade, the bankers added.

PETRA said that the government's decision has drawn very warm welcome from Jordanian merchants and importers who now have greater facilities to open letters of credit at banks freely to ensure their imports. [passage omitted]

Al-Khasawinah Urges 'Self-Reliance' Among Public
JN1302080989 Amman JORDAN TIMES in English 13 Feb 89 p 3

[Text] Amman (Petra)—Minister of Information Hani Al-Khasawinah Sunday opened a training course for Jordan Radio and Television Corporation officials at the corporation's training centre in Amman with a speech in which he paid tribute to Radio Jordan and Jordan Television for their well-prepared programmes that provide services to the public.

Al-Khasawinah said that the information message should contain the truth and must be presented with objectivity and responsibility to the public.

The minister urged the trainees to promote the cause of self-reliance among the members of the public, especially now since the country is seeking to encourage investment and exploiting the poeple's creative and inventive potenial to serve the nation.

The Corporation Director General Munir al-Durrah and other officials were present at the opening ceremony.

The Corporation's centre has organised several training courses for officials over the past six months dealing with the preparation of programmes, broadcasting techniques and skills, and other related topics.

U.S. Embassy 'Surrounded' by Lebanese Forces

NC1602120489 Beirut Domestic Service in Arabic 1145 GMT 16 Feb 89

[Text] A state of extreme tension reigns in the areas which were the scene of earlier clashes. Skirmishes involving machineguns and rockets took place in the areas of Sinn al-Fil, Antilyas, Al-Rabiyah, and 'Ayn al-Rummanah today.

In the meantime, the house of General Michel 'Awn and the U.S. Embassy building in the areas of 'Awkar are still surrounded by Lebanese Forces members.

Army, Lebanese Forces Clash in East Beirut

Lebanese Forces Statement

NC1502131889 Beirut Voice of Lebanon in Arabic 1232 GMT 15 Feb 89

[Text] We have just received the following statement from the fifth branch of the Lebanese Forces [LF]:

Despite the LF announcement on commitment to a unilateral cease-fire, successive attacks continue against their positions, particularly in northern Al-Matn, where the forces are defending their positions and fighters and preventing the attackers' advance from all directions.

During the past few hours, reinforcements have been brought from military fronts to support Army units. It has been confirmed that a 200-man military force has been formed in the scout city and equipped with four personnel carriers. The objective of this action is to surround the LF positions.

Cease-Fire Committee Formed

NC1502132789 (Clandestine) Radio Free Lebanon in Arabic 1245 GMT 15 Feb 89

[Text] A meeting held today between Maronite Patriarch Mar Nasrallah Butrus Sfayr and Lebanese Forces [LF] envoys Roger Dib and Charles Shartuni has ended in reaching an agreement on forming a military committee from both sides [LF and Army] which will supervise the cease-fire implementation under Bkirki's auspices. Former Minister George Afram has joined the contacts taking place in Bkirki. He and Dib went to the Papal Embassy.

It has been learned that so far, Patriarch Sfayr has failed to contact General 'Awn to brief him on the meeting he held with the LF delegation. Gen 'Awn continues to evade all contacts that spiritual and political leaders have tried to establish with him. He hopes to achieve gains on the ground. He insists on continuing the fighting, exploiting the LF unilaterally, abiding by the cease-fire in order to strengthen his positions before attempting an advance toward the LF centers.

'Awn Phones Sfayr

NC1502144589 Beirut Voice of Lebanon in Arabic 1415 GMT 15 Feb 89

[Text] Papal Nuncio Luciano Angelone arrived in Bkirki a short while ago for a meeting with Patriarch Sfayr. According to our correspondent in Bkirki, General Michel 'Awn has telephoned Patriarch Sfayr, and it seems that there are positive indications that a cease-fire will be reached. Our correspondent adds that the patriarch informed the Lebanese Forces representative Charles Shartuni of the telephone call. Shartuni, in turn, contacted the office of LF Commander Samir Ja'ja' to brief him on the latest developments.

Army, LF Agree on Timing

NC1502145189 Beirut Voice of Lebanon in Arabic 1431 GMT 15 Feb 89

[Text] It was learned a few moments ago that Army Intelligence Director Colonel 'Amir Shihab directly contacted LF Commander Dr Samir Ja'ja', and they both agreed to set 1630 as the time to begin a cease-fire. Colonel Shihab immediately telephoned Bkirki and informed the patriarch of the agreement.

LF Command Orders Cease-Fire

NC1502151589 (Clandestine) Radio Free Lebanon in Arabic 1445 GMT 15 Feb 89

[Text] We begin our newscast with the statement issued by the LF Command a short while ago. The statement says that in response to the wish of His Beatitude Patriarch Mar Nasrallah Butrus Sfayr to end the fighting, out of the Lebanese front's desire to hold the fire and end the bloodshed of innocent people, in response to the desire of the various spiritual and political leaders who have exerted intensive efforts to end the deterioration, and in confirmation of an earlier decision issued by the LF Command to unilaterally hold its fire, LF Commander Dr Samir Ja'Ja' has ordered the LF General Staff to instruct all its troops to observe a comprehensive cease-fire as of 1630 today, 15 February 1989.

Meanwhile, the Fifth Branch of the LF has issued the following statement:

In accordance with the orders of the LF commander in chief, all the LF units are hereby required to observe a comprehensive cease-fire as of 1630 today.

Army Pledges Commitment

NC1502150189 Beirut Voice of Lebanon in Arabic 1458 GMT 15 Feb 89

[Text] The Army Command issued a statement a short while ago affirming that it will abide by the cease-fire as of 1630, in response to the call by Patriarch Sfayr.

Joint Committee To Supervise

NC1502201989 (Clandestine) Radio Free Lebanon in Arabic 1945 GMT 15 Feb 89

[Text] While guarded calm continues to prevail on all axes in the eastern areas without any violations being reported, a four-man military committee has begun intensive contacts between the parties in order to consolidate the cease-fire and open some main roads. The committee comprises George 'Udwan and Tawfiq al-Hindi as representatives of the LF, and Brigadier General Jean Farah and Colonel 'Amir Shihab as representatives of the Lebanese Army.

Army Controlled Areas Noted

NC1502160789 Beirut Domestic Service in Arabic 1500 GMT 15 Feb 89

[Text] A cease-fire agreement, effective as of 1630 today, was reached between the Army and the LF following contacts between both parties to the conflict. Maronite Patriarch Mar Nasrallah Sfayr and Papal Nuncio Luciano Angelone sponsored the contacts.

Foreign news agencies and security sources has earlier reported that the Army managed to take control of the areas of Nahr al-Mawt, Al-Rabiyah, and Antilyas, as well as the central part northern Al-Matn and Bikfayya and its suburbs.

The same sources added that the LF building for storing armored vehicles in Tahwitat Furn al-Shubbak has fallen to the Army, which has also taken control of the Pierre Matar Barracks in Camille Sham'un Boulevard.

In addition, it has been reported that two LF barracks in 'Arayya and Al-Luwayzah have been destroyed and that the Army has closed the Sarba Road.

Intermittent Gunfire Heard

NC1502170389 (Clandestine) Radio Free Lebanon in Arabic 1649 GMT 15 Feb 89

[Text] Guarded calm prevails in East Beirut since the cease-fire agreement went into effect at 1630 today. Intermittent gunfire can be heard near Al-Hayik Traffic Circle in Sinn al-Fil and the two combat lines of 'Ayn al-Rummanah-Chevrolet and Al-Rabiyah-Al-Kassarat in the upper section of Antilyas. The artillery shelling which targeted Al-Ashrafiyah and Kisrawan has stopped.

LF, Army Renew Clashes

NC1502211989 (Clandestine) Voice of the Mountain in Arabic to Lebanon 2000 GMT 15 Feb 89

[Text] Guarded calm prevails in the eastern areas, but there is gunfire every now and then in an attempt to consolidate the new positions, which are as follows:

The Army is in control of East Beirut and the northern and coastal Al-Matn plain, where it has occupied the LF barracks and destroyed some of them.

The LF are in control of the areas of Kasrawan and Jubayl, and it has been reported that they have taken control of Halat Airport and the naval base in Juniyah.

We have just received a report saying that clashes have begun anew in the vicinity of the Al-Hayik Traffic Circle in Sinn al-Fil, and that machinegun fire is being heard in the areas of Antilyas, Al-Rabiyah, Al-Naqqash, and Al-Kassarat.

Situation on Fighting Updated

NC1602063089 (Clandestine) Voice of the Mountain in Arabic to Lebanon 0530 GMT 16 Feb 89

[Text] Sporadic gunfire can still be heard in various parts of East Beirut, particularly in the vicinity of Al-Karantina, where the LF headquarters is located, and in certain areas along the coastal road and near Antilyas. Fires are still raging in some areas and both parties are continuing to mass troops in their new positions.

Clashes erupted at 0330, 0420, 0550, and 0615 this morning. Gunfire was still being heard when this newscast was being prepared.

Regarding the military situation on the ground, it has been reported that the Lebanese Army is now in control of the southern half of the eastern area, including 'Ayn al-Rummanah, Furn al-Shubbak, Al-Hadath, Kafr Shima, Bdadun, Humal, Bulaybil, Wadi Shahrur, Al-Hazimiyah, Al-Fayyadiyah, Al-Jumhur, 'Arayya, Sinn al-Fil, Monte Verde, Al-Mansuriyah up to Bayt Miri, Brummanah, B'abdat, Bikfayya, and Northern al-Matn, as well as the coastal road from Beirut up to Nahr al-Kalb, except for the LF headquarters in Al-Karantina and certain pockets in 'Ayn al-Rummanah.

The LF are in control of the northern half, from Juniyah to Jubayl, and 'Amshit. There are conflicting reports about the fate of the naval base in Juniyah and Halat Airport.

Fighting Denied

NC1602085989 (Clandestine) Radio Free Lebanon in Arabic 0845 GMT 16 Feb 89

[Text] Guarded calm prevails in a number of East Beirut areas, contrary to reports by West Beirut radios that clashes are currently raging.

In another development, Israeli warplanes broke the sound barrier while conducting sorties in Lebanese airspace a short while ago.

Army Abducts Citizens

NC1602100589 (Clandestine) Radio Free Lebanon in Arabic 0951 GMT 16 Feb 89

[Text] We have just received the following report from our newsdesk:

A group of military personnel under the command of Major 'Awwad and First Lieutenant Paul Sarkis is currently kidnapping citizens and is setting fire to some of their homes in Hayy al-Amirkan in 'Ayn al-Rummanah. Two of those kidnapped have been identified as Samir 'Abduh and Dahir Shadid.

Casualty Totals Noted

NC1502130789 Beirut Voice of Lebanon in Arabic 1215 GMT 15 Feb 89

[Text] Regarding the human and material losses resulting from the clashes, inconclusive preliminary statistics speak of no less than 15 persons killed and more than 60 wounded.

Quoting what it says are the same sources, AFP says 33 persons were killed and 70 others were wounded. Citing the LF operations room, AFP says that two members of the forces were killed and others were wounded.

The Army command issued a statement saying that seven elements including one officer were killed and 14 others wounded.

Houses, cars, and other property sustained enormous damage. The fire brigade command issued a statement asking all firemen to immediately come to their centers in order to carry out their duties under these circumstances.

25 Dead, 90 Wounded in Fighting

NC1502175289 Beirut Voice of Lebanon in Arabic 1715 GMT 15 Feb 89

[Text] As a result of the fighting, preliminary and inconclusive statistics show the number of dead has exceeded 25 and the number of wounded is over 90. AFP reported that the clashes left 40 people dead, including 7 soldiers and 12 LF personnel, as well as 165 combatants and civilians wounded.

Casualty Toll Updated

NC1602062089 Beirut Voice of Lebanon in Arabic 0515 GMT 16 Feb 89

[Excerpts] A guarded calm continues to reign in most of the East Beirut areas except for some bursts of gunfire that were heard early this morning and were renewed at 0600 and 0645.

The four-member committee comprising George 'Udwan and Tawfiq Hindi as representatives of the LF, and Brigadier General Jean Farah and Colonel 'Amir Shihab as representatives of the Army, held its first meeting at the Defense Ministry building in Al-Yarzah last night. The committee discussed the issue of the detainees held by the two sides and the reopening of roads that were closed by the events. The committee also touched on ways of ensuring commitment to the cease-fire.

Meanwhile, consultations at the highest spiritual and official level continue in a bid to consolidate the cease-fire and settle the situation through dialogue. [passage omitted]

According to initial statistics, the fighting has left well over 40 people dead and more than 150 wounded. Most of the injured have now left the hospital. Grave material damage was inflicted on the citizens' property as a result of the fierce bombardment. Furthermore, the shelling which originated from areas outside East Beirut increased the material damage. The Al-Matn coast came under sudden shelling shortly after the declaration of the cease-fire agreement. [passage omitted]

Lebanese Forces Views Goals of Army Operation

NC1502151989 (Clandestine) Radio Free Lebanon in Arabic 1345 GMT 15 Feb 89

[Text] A responsible source in the Lebanese Forces has issued the following statement:

Since yesterday evening, some units in the Lebanese Army, particularly the commandos, military police, and some units of the brigades that had been withdrawn from the military front with the enemy, have been attempting to overrun the Lebanese Forces' posts extending in the north from Antilyas, Al-Dikwanah, Sinn al-Fil, and Al-Mukallis, as far as Al-Hadath, Al-Hazimiyah, and 'Ayn al-Rummanah. All these are defenseless residential areas that have turned into a battlefront overnight, causing harm to the citizens' safety, livelihood, and property.

The objective of this operation is to take control of East Beirut; specifically, the coastal road extending from Nahr al-Kalb to Al-Karantina and the strategic road extending from Al-Hazimiyah to the museum. The goals of the operation are clear and as follows: One, to isolate the Lebanese Forces within Beirut, and, two, to fulfill a fundamental demand that Syria has incessantly tried to fulfill; namely, to set up a greater Beirut under the supervision of joint forces from both the Lebanese and Syrian Armies.

The Lebanese Forces have always been and will remain the shield guarding against all foreign conspiracies. The Lebanese Forces, which have previously foiled all attempts to conclude suspicious deals over the bodies of their fighters and at the expense of their martyrs' blood, promise all the fighters and the Lebanese that they will firmly fight this new conspiracy, which is unfortunately being concocted this time at the hands of those whom the Lebanese Forces had given full political, military, and media support without any narrow considerations or other calculations.

More Israeli Flights Over Beirut Noted

NC1602092589 Beirut Voice of Lebanon in Arabic 0915 GMT 16 Feb 89

[Text] Israeli warplanes broke the sound barrier over Beirut at 1045 today.

East Beirut Reported Under Syrian Fire

NC1502102589 (Clandestine) Radio Free Lebanon in Arabic 1015 GMT 15 Feb 89

[Text] The areas of 'Ayn al-Rummanah, Hursh Thabit, and Sinn al-Fil are being subjected to artillery shelling from Syrian emplacements. The Hotel Dieu area is coming under shelling from the western area of Beirut.

Military Concentrations Noted

NC1502102789 Beirut Voice of Lebanon in Arabic 1015 GMT 15 Feb 89

[Text] According to security reports, Syrian military concentrations have been monitored in Bulunya, Al-Muruj, and adjacent areas. Military vehicles are also being massed in the 'Alayh area.

Missile Kills 5 in East Beirut

NC1502114489 (Clandestine) Radio Free Lebanon in Arabic 1138 GMT 15 Feb 89

[Text] A Grad missile landed in the 'Ayn al-Rummanah area a short while ago killing five citizens. According to a security source, the missile was fired from Syrian positions in Duhur al-Shuway-Bulunya.

Syrians Deny Shelling

NC1502132189 (Clandestine) Voice of the Mountain in Arabic to Lebanon 1230 GMT 15 Feb 89

[Text] Security sources have denied reports propagated by some media to the effect that the eastern areas are coming under shellfire from nationalist positions on the mountain. The same sources added that this talk can no longer fool anyone. The same reports were denied by the Syrian troops' command in Beirut. Media organs in East Beirut had earlier reported military reinforcements in the Bulunya and Al-Muruj vicinities and on the outskirts of 'Alayh. The same sources noted that a number of shells had fallen in West Beirut and that a number of buildings on the combat lines had come under sniper fire.

Gunfire in Southern Suburb

NC1402154989 Beirut Voice of Lebanon in Arabic 1515 GMT 14 Feb 89

[Text] The areas of Al-Barid and Sannin [in East Beirut] have been coming under sniper and machinegun fire from the southern suburb as of 1400 today.

Meanwhile, the Syrians dismantled an explosive charge placed under a car near the residence of Colonel 'Ali Hammud, chief of Syrian observers, in West Beirut last night.

Villagers Protest Hizballah's Return to South

NC1402182389 Beirut Voice of Lebanon in Arabic 1715 GMT 14 Feb 89

[Text] According to the NNA, approximately 10,000 people from 15 villages gathered today in the town of Qana, in Tyre District, and staged a demonstration to protest the return of Hizballah to southern Lebanon.

11th Brigade, PSP To Control Emplacements

NC1302155389 (Clandestine) Radio Free Lebanon in Arabic 1445 GMT 13 Feb 89

[Text] Several meetings are being held between the 11th Brigade officers, former Minister Walid Junblatt, and PSP officials, in preparation for the takeover by the PSP of most of the artillery emplacements in the mountain. These emplacements are to be supervised by the 11th Brigade as well as by some of the PSP's sensitive posts.

Al-Asad Receives CSSR Foreign Trade Minister

JN1502185589 Damascus Television Service in Arabic 1830 GMT 15 Feb 89

[Text] At 1715 today, President Hafiz al-Asad received CSSR Foreign Trade Minister Jan Sterba. Dr Muhammd al-'Imadi, minister of economy and foreign trade, and the CSSR ambassador in Damascus attended.

Sterba conveyed to the president a message from CSSR President Gustav Husak dealing with a number of current international conditions, the situation in the region, and bilateral relations.

In his message, President Husak asserted CSSR's solidarity with the just Arab causes and denounced Israeli occupation of Arab territory.

Sterba also conveyed to the president the greetings of the Czechoslovak Communist Party secretary general, President Husak, and the CSSR leadership. The president asked him to convey similar greetings to CSSR leadership and friendly people.

During the meeting, the conversation revolved around bilateral relations, the situation in the region, and international developments.

Khaddam Meets With Ba'th Party Officials, Others

JN1502151989 Damascus Domestic Service in Arabic 1215 GMT 15 Feb 89

[Text] Comrade Dr Sulayman Qaddah, assistant regional secretary general of the Arab Socialist Ba'th Party [ASBP], presided over a continuing meeting of comrade members of party branches, governors, heads of popular organizations and professional unions, and presidents of universities.

The meeting was attended by Comrade Deputy President 'Abd al-Halim Khaddam, People's Assembly Speaker 'Abd al-Qadir Qaddurah, comrade members of the regional command, and a number of comrade ministers.

The comrades in attendance heard a comprehensive political review presented by Comrade Deputy President 'Abd al-Halim Khaddam on developments of the Arab situation and the Arab-Israeli conflict and means to strengthen the spirit of resistance and steadfastness.

He also reviewed the situation in Lebanon and emphasized the need to achieve national reconciliation in that fraternal country. He asserted Syria's firm and clear stand on Lebanon's unity and its rejection of any form of fragmentation.

Khaddam also reviewed the international situation and its developments, probabilities, and impact on the Arab region.

He also touched on the fundamental bases for Syria's foreign policy according to the party's resolutions and directives of comrade leader Hafiz al-Asad, ASBP secretary general. The deputy president then answered questions from the comrades on a number of issues.

Ba'th Party Criticizes U.S.-ROK Exercises

JN1302111589 Damascus SANA in Arabic 0850 GMT 13 Feb 89

[Text] Damascus, 13 Feb (SANA)—An official source at the Foreign Relations Office of the Arab Socialist Ba'th Party National Command has issued a statement on the huge U.S.-South Korean military exercises, named "Team Spirit 89," started by forces from the two sides near the military line between North and South Korea.

The official source said that these exercises create tension in the situation in the Korean Peninsula and constitute an obstacle to efforts to establish peace in the area.

The source added that our party views these maneuvers as an inflammation of conflict and a threat to a friendly country struggling to reach national unity in a peaceful and independent manner.

The source affirmed that these exercises reveal a continued policy of threatening the use of force. The source affirmed our party reiterates support for the friendly DPRK people in their struggle to defend their land.

The source expressed the Ba'th Party's support for the four principles proposed by the DPRK Government during the political parliamentary meeting between various northern and southern parties as a step toward easing tension in the Korean Peninsula in preparation for restoring unity between the two parts peacefully and away from foreign intervention.

Afghanistan

Wakil Announces Curfew Imposed on Kabul

OW1602152789 Beijing XINHUA in English 1452 GMT 16 Feb 89

[Text] Beijing, February 16 (XINHUA)—A curfew has been imposed in Kabul, capital of Afghanistan, only one day after the completion of the Soviet troop withdrawal from that country, according to reports reaching here from Kabul.

Foreign Minister of the Afghan regime, 'Abdul Wakil told a press conference in Kabul today that a 10 p.m. to 4 a.m. curfew had been imposed in Kabul because the Afghan guerrillas based near the city "are trying to create panic and sabotage."

The capital remained quiet today, with a fresh snowfall blanketing the city of more two million people and forcing the closure of the airport.

Following the Soviet withdrawal yesterday, the Soviet airlift of food and other vital supplies to Kabul has been suspended. The city, which is cut off by land because of a guerrilla blockade and heavy snow, badly needs food and other daily necessities.

Wakil also declared: "About 1,500 Pakistanis are on the border and another 1,500 have entered Afghanistan."

Soviet Embassy officials in Kabul also claimed that about 5,000 Pakistani personnel were inside Afghanistan fighting against the Kabul regime forces. The Pakistani Government has repeatedly denied the Soviet and Afghan charges, saying that such allegations are signs of desperation by the Kabul regime.

Rebels Fire Rockets on Kabul 16 Feb; 7 Killed

BK1602162189 Hong Kong AFP in English 1616 GMT 16 Feb 89

[Text] Kabul, Feb 16 (AFP)—About 10 rockets exploded Thursday in and around Kabul, killing seven people, including four children, local officials said. One rocket fell in the northern part of the Afghan capital, killing four children at play, officials added. Another rocket fell on a minibus near the airport killing the driver, two passengers and wounding five.

Eyewitnesses said another five rockets fell near barracks at the northern end of town, causing no injuries.

In Moscow, a government spokesman said Thursday that rebel mujahidin had bombarded four other towns—Herat, Ghazni, Gardeyz and Khowst—during the past 24 hours.

Kabul Reports 6 Killed

LD1602162689 Kabul Domestic Service in Pashto 1530 GMT 16 Feb 89

[Text] Criminal extremists, supported by Pakistan, today committed another unforgivable crime against our peace-loving people by firing six surface-to-surface missiles on the residential regions of Kabul city.

The BIA military section reports that three missiles hit the residential regions of wards 11, 10 and 4 in Kabul city. As a result of this anti-Islamic action by the extremists, six of our compatriots, including three children, aged 8, 11, and 13, were martyred, and another three persons were injured. The injured persons were quickly taken to the hospital. The medical condition of the injured persons is reported to be satisfactory.

As a result of these missiles a number of houses were partially destroyed causing material losses.

The other three missiles hit areas in Wazir 'Akbar Khan Hill, the mountain next to Watan Nursery and Bini Hesar mountain, which did not cause any loss of life or material damage.

Salang Highway Reopened After Snow Closure

LD1602135889 Kabul Domestic Service in Dari 1330 GMT 16 Feb 89

[Text] Today two convoys of vehicles carrying foodstuff arrived in Kabul. BIA reports that as a result of snow the Salang highway was closed to traffic. Now the highway has been opened to traffic and during the last 4 days some 800 state and private sector vehicles have transported 9,000 tons of foodstuffs, oil, state goods and goods belonging to national traders to Kabul. The arrival of supply convoys to Kabul is continuing.

Armed Forces Combat Operations 14-15 Feb

LD1602094289 Kabul Domestic Service in Pashto 1530 GMT 15 Feb 89

[Text] Except for a few small incidents in some regions during the last 24 hours, no important combat operations on the national level have been carried out. The most important communications routes, linking Kabul with other provinces are open and the supply of goods is continuing along these routes. Quoting competent military sources, BIA's military section reports the following:

Parvan: Terrorists and plundering bands attacked areas between Mir Bacheh Kowt and Qarah Bagh. As a result of retaliation by Armed Forces units and companies, these attacks were neturalized and 12 warmongers were killed. One missile unit, four strongholds and nine DShK trenches belonging to them were destroyed. Also during the operation one Armed Forces soldier was wounded.

Pakita: Extremists supported by Pakistani militarists, attacked various regions at Khowst major district with heavy weapons. As a result, one resident was wounded. Also, six rocket missile rounds were fired at Gardeyz city. No losses occured.

Qandahar: In retaliation for heavy weapons fire by the extremists at Dand district, the Armed Forces have killed 12 warmongers. Approximately 47 trenches and dugouts, 4 mortars and DShK's and 17 light weapons were destroyed. Approximately 277 mortar rounds, 110 anti-personnel mines and a large number of light weapons and ammunition were seized by the security forces. One Armed Forces member was wounded in these incidents.

Another report states that extremists fired 18 rounds of rocket missiles at Ghazni city and 4 rocket missiles at Herat city. No losses were incurred.

According to a report, young people are continuing to join the Armed Forces ranks. During the last 24 hours, 476 youths have registered their names in the country's capital and provinces for services in the Armed Forces.

Government Statement on Geneva Accords Compliance
LD1502200189 Kabul Domestic Service in Dari 1600 GMT 15 Feb 89

[Statement by the Republic of Afghanistan—date, place not given]

[Text] In the name of God, the merciful, the compassionate. Today, 15 February 1989, the last Soviet troop in Afghanistan crossed into Soviet territory. This means that the provisions of the Geneva accords on the return of foreign forces have been carried out in full compliance with the agreed time table and with the loyal observance of both countries' repeated promises on the withdrawal of Soviet forces within the framework of a comprehensive political solution.

This great event requires a profound and responsible assessment of the two sides' attitudes toward their international obligations as laid out in the Geneva accords. The Republic of Afghanistan, in line with its policy of national reconciliation, and in line with its belief in the need for a political solution, made indefatigable and honest efforts to conclude the Geneva talks successfully.

The signing of the Geneva accords was facilitated on the one hand, when Afghanistan's efforts regarding the withdrawal of Soviet troops bore fruit, and on the other hand, when all the parties adopted a common attitude to solve the foreign factors connected with Afghanisan. This fundamental logic constitutes the foundation of the Geneva accords. The main purpose of the spirit and letter of the Geneva accords was to normalize relations between Afghanistan and Pakistan and to ensure noninterference in each others internal affairs—in other words a significant decrease in Afghanistan's internal clashes and peace and security in the region.

We can easily see that both the observance of the fundamental principles and the consistancy of these obligations have been infringed upon. However, the Republic of Afghanistan and the USSR both made honest efforts to overcome all the obstacles which stood in the way of their obligations.

The other side—Pakistan and the United States—has not concealed that its intentions are to limit the Geneva accords to the withdrawal of forces. They turn a blind eye to interference in the internal affairs of Afghanistan. The more Afghanistan's and the USSR's observance of the Geneva accords increased the credibility of the United Nations increased, the more the infringement and non-observance of this important international document damaged UN authority and prestige and betrayed internationally accepted principles.

The quality and quantity of armed and other forms of interferences have increased compared with the period before the Geneva accords were signed. It is noteworthy that not only are hundreds of training camps, arms and ammunition depots, radio stations, publicity centers, and the central offices of the Afghan opposition and other offices continuing their activities in Pakistan, but there has also be a considerable increase in their activities and facilities since the Geneva accords were signed.

Pakistan's decision to use it Armed Forces to directly support the armed opposition is a dangerous development which has taken place recently. In accordance with reliable information received today, 4,800 violations by the other side have been registered, 1,800 of which have been sent to the UN Good Offices Mission in Afghanistan and Pakistan [UNGOMAP] for consideration and investigation.

Regretfully, not only has the United States not fulfilled its responsibility as a guarantor of the agreement, but it has increased the armed dispute by sending more advanced arms to Afghan opposition groups. On top of this, UNGOMAP's activities have not been practically useful because Pakistan has created obstacles and artificial excuses. The non-observance of the Geneva accords by Pakistan and the United States has negatively affected our efforts to bring about national reconciliation among all Afghans and to ensure the accords.

Pakistan has recently been trying to exert enormous pressure on the opposition to set up a so-called shura and a transitional government. Under this so-called government, some Pakistani leaders want to execute their filthy plots to annex Afghanistan under the cover of a confederation. This kind of dirty and expansionist plot, the purpose of which is to eliminate Afghanistan's independence, is condemned and resolutely rejected by the people and the state of the Republic of Afghanistan.

A shura which is not represented by the real political forces inside and outside Afghanistan will aggrevate hostilities and make the political solution to Afghanistan's problem more difficult. It will have no credibility with the Republic of Afghanistan. There is no doubt that Afghanistan's stance on this will receive backing from Afghanistan's friends.

Taking all these facts into considerations it was Afghanistan's and the USSR's legitimate right to delay the withdrawal of a number of Soviet troops but it was decided to complete the withdrawal according to the timetable so that both countries' devotion and honesty where the Geneva agreement is concerned could be proved many times more; and so that the other side would be persuaded to observe its legal and contractual obligations.

Now that there are no Soviet forces left in Afghanistan, the Republic of Afghanistan wants all aspects of this issue and the violations of the Geneva agreements by Pakistan and the United States and the serious consequences of the continuing open violations by Pakistan and the United States to be investigated responsibly and wisely. The Republic of Afgahnistan states clearly that if Pakistan is in contravention of the Geneva agreements, the responsibility of all the grave consequences will rest with that country.

If some people think that now that the Soviet forces have withdrawn they can do anything they want and continue their shameless and subversive activities against Afghanistan, they should know that the Republic of Afghanistan has the right to carry out defensive acts in line with the UN Charter and bilateral Afghan-Soviet treaties. The people of the Republic of Afghanistan are now looking to the UN secretary general to fulfill his responsibility comprehensively and fruitfully on the bases of the UN General Assembly's 43d session resolution and as supervisor of the Geneva accords. He must use the facilities and means at his disposal to ensure that the other side comprehensively and fully enforces the Geneva accords.

Now that the Soviet forces have withdrawn from Afghanistan,the Republic of Afghanistan, on behalf of the people of Afghanistan, thanks the Soviet people and state for their assistance in defending Afghanistan's national sovereignty, political independence, and territorial integrity. The Republic of Afghanistan is fully confident that relations between our countries are developing on the basis of friendship, good neighborliness, cooperation, equal rights, and noninterference in each other's internal affairs and in line with treaties between the two countries, in the interests of our peoples and in interests of peace, cooperation, and stablity in the region.

The Republic of Afghanistan declares that with the help of God the great, our people are now prepared to stand resolutely and independently and to demonstrate unprecedented unity against any foreign interference, plots or conspiraices by enemies of the country.

Wakil Writes to UN on Geneva Accords Violations

LD1502221489 Kabul Domestic Service in Dari 1600 GMT 15 Feb 89

[Text] 'Abdul Wakil, foreign minister of the Republic of Afghanistan, sent the following detailed letter to the UN Security Council on the circumstances surrounding the Republic of Afghanistan's observance of the Geneva accords over the past 9 months, and Pakistan's repeated and blatant violations and those by the United States, drawing the attention of this organization to the task of ending interference in the internal affairs of the Republic of Afghanistan and restoring peace and security in the region.

This letter stresses that despite the scrupulous and committed observation of the Geneva accords by the Republic of Afghanistan and the Soviet Union—substantiated by the complete withdrawal of the Soviet military units from Afghanistan—Pakistan and the United States have trampled on the letter and spirit of the Geneva accords and are continuing their interference in the internal affairs of Afghanistan. They are financing, arming, training, and dispatching the armed extremist opposition, and recruiting mercenaries to carry out subversive terrorist actions.

The existence of 125 military training camps and weapons and ammunition depots, the participation of individuals and of foreign organizations in direct military operations and in organizing and coordinating activities by the armed extremist groups, the transporting of various weapons' convoys by Pakistani military vehicles, and the creation of obstacles for the UN Good Offices Mission in Afghanistan and Pakistan [UNGOMAP] during the past 9 months since the enforcement of Geneva accords, all testify to the violation of the Geneva accords by Pakistan and the United States. And we conveyed this to the UNGOMAP office in Afghanistan in 212 notes, covering 1,758 violations.

It is also pointed out that there are now broad hopes in the world for the restoration of peace in Afghanistan, and one of the provisions of the Geneva accords, the withdrawal of Soviet forces from Afghanistan, has been accomplished.

The United Nations must use all its resources to salvage Afghanistan and its people from the danger of a war which is being encouraged, financed, and organized from abroad.

In view of the present circumstances, the UN Security Council has been asked to assess the compliance of the Geneva accords and to prevent any further deterioration in the present situation. It has also been requested that this letter be (?distributed) as an official UN document.

Wakil, UNGOMAP Head Discuss Withdrawal
LD1602102389 Kabul Domestic Service in Dari 1608 GMT 15 Feb 89

[Text] Foreign Minister 'Abdul Wakil received General Helminen, envoy of the UN secretary general and head of UNGOMAP, at this office today. During the meeting, the foreign minister emphasized that with the withdrawal of the military units of the Soviet Union, which was completed today, the duties of the delegation have not been terminated but have become more serious than ever before.

The foreign minister explained that the return of the Soviet units have negated all pretexts of those circles which are engaged in financing and organizing the war, and therefore all efforts should be concentrated on the complete implementation of the Geneva accords. The foreign minister added that while the completion of the withdrawal of the Soviet military units under the Geneva accords, which were concluded under the supervision of the representative of the UN secretary general, could add to the prestige of that organization, the failure of Pakistan and the United States to observe other articles of the Geneva accords could damage the credibility of the organization and UNGOMAP in particular.

Unfortunately, during the period that has elapsed since the enforcement of the Geneva accords, the UNGOMAP has not succeeded in assessing the Pakistani violations as stipulated in the accords. The foreign minister asked for the establishment of permanent UN posts at Chaman, Landay Kotal, Parachinar, Towr Kham, and Spin Boldak which are being extensively utilized for the infiltration of weapons and ammunition.

The foreign minister added: By concentrating its forces at the eastern borders of Afghanistan, Pakistan has seriously threatened our national sovereignty. Pakistan is attempting to give comprehensive support to the armed Afghan opposition in their designs to occupy Jalalabad.

The foreign minister condemned attempts by a number of countries who have created obstacles to UN assistance for Afghanistan for political reasons in order to exert pressure on the government and people of Afghanistan. 'Abdul Wakil said that Pakistan's attempt to convene the so-called council of extremist elements, while excluding some Afghan forces, is a blatant violation of the Geneva accords.

The foreign minister confirmed that we are prepared to reliably defend the country. The opposition will never be able to achieve a military victory.

In reply, General Helminen, expressed gratitude for the Republic of Afghanistan's consistent cooperation and stated that the UN Secretary General Mr Perez de Cuellar and Cordovez have consistently participated in the developments. General Helminen assured the continuing cooperation of the UNGOMAP in this regard and expressed the view that the return of the Soviet forces was an important achievement by Afghanistan and the Soviet Union in implementing the Geneva accords.

Rebels Divided on Interim Government Endorsement
BK1602142089 Hong Kong AFP in English 1409 GMT 16 Feb 89

[Text] Rawalpindi, Pakistan, Feb 16 (AFP)—A proposed Afghan interim government received a mixed reaction Thursday [16 February] from delegates of Pakistan-based resistence groups attending an assembly here, with moderate groups opposing it.

Leaders of Iran-based resistance groups continued to boycott the assembly, or shura, as did delegates of one of the seven groups based in Pakistan.

Two of the three moderate, pro-Western groups in the Pakistan-based alliance said Thursday they opposed the government, which was proposed Wednesday by the alliance for the shura's consideration.

The third group, led by Muhammad Nabi Muhammadi, who is to become the next chief of the Pakistan-based alliance, has chosen not to make any comments yet.

Leaders of the four fundamentalist parties in the alliance have said they support the proposed government.

The current alliance chief, Sibghatullah Mojaddedi, has boycotted the meeting since Friday over the rift with the Iran-based parties, which are mostly Shi'ite Muslims.

Mr. Mojaddedi's son, Muhammad, told AGENCE FRANCE-PRESSE that the head of the proposed government, radical Muslim fundamentalist Ahmad Shah, was not acceptable.

"A lot of people do not know him. He is nice, but since he is neither an administrator nor a fighter or a religious scholar, he is not acceptable to the Afghan people," Mr. Mojaddedi said.

He said Mr. Shah was also unacceptable because he came from the Muslim Wahabi sect and that many of the shura delegates might not approve his government.

The Wahabis are the predominant faction in Saudi Arabia, which has given Mr. Shah's party, the Etehad-e Eslami, considerable financial support.

Ahmad Shah Interviewed on Transitional Government
PM1502151689 Jeddah 'UKAZ in Arabic
9 Feb 89 p 5

[Telephone interview with Ahmad Shah, mujahidin "transitional" government head, by 'Umar Jastinyah in Jeddah—date not given]

[Text] [Jastinyah] After his return from Tehran, Sibghatullah Mojaddedi said that the eight Iran-based parties have agreed to take part in the formation of the shura and its proceedings. How was this achieved?

[Shah] Sibghatullah Mojaddedi went on his own accord without asking the mujahidin leaders. He had a personal view. He agreed with the eight parties to give them 100 seats in the shura. But the number of seats allocated to them, to which they are entitled, is only 60. We have held negotiations and consultations in Pakistan over the past 2 days because the process of bringing 100 people to the shura meetings has failed. We have given them a chance until tomorrow, Friday, to think further about accepting the 60 seats, otherwise they will not participate with us in the shura. We have refused to give them 100 seats under any circumstances.

[Jastinyah] Was that a majority mujahidin decision?

[Shah] Yes. Everyone has known for some time now that we have allocated 60 seats, no more, to the eight parties.

[Jastinyah] So why did Mojaddedi go to Tehran? What was his objective?

[Shah] It was his own initiative. He made a mistake in going to Tehran without consulting the other leaders in the Islamic Alliance of Afghan Mujahidin.

[Jastinyah] It was reported recently that there has been a compromise formula between the mujahidin and the eight parties in Tehran. Is this false, in the light of what you have said?

[Shah] Yes. It is untrue. The matter was merely an effort on Mojaddedi's part. But the other leaders have rejected the agreement which Mojaddedi signed with the eight parties in Tehran.

[Jastinyah] Did the mujahidin leaders differ in their views after Mojaddedi's return from Tehran?

[Shah] Yes. We all reproached him because he went without consulting the other leaders of the Islamic Alliance of Afghan Mujahidin.

[Jastinyah] Do you believe that it was the lack of time that prompted Mojaddedi to do what he did?

[Shah] It had nothing to do with the time limit because our present and past steps are very important historic steps in the history of Afghan struggle against ambitions and grudges.

[Jastinyah] So it is the Soviets and the Iranian who have benefited from Mojaddedi's visit to Tehran and subsequent differences among the mujahidin leaders over that visit.

[Shah] The six parties have rejected the agreement which Mojaddedi signed in Tehran. Neither the Soviets nor others will benefit, despite their attempts to divide us.

[Jastinyah] Did Mojaddedi go to Tehran in his personal capacity rather than in his capacity as present leader of the Islamic Alliance of Afghan Mujahidin?

[Shah] Yes. Mojaddedi went to Tehran in his personal capacity, not as a representative of the Afghan leaders or as the present leader of the alliance.

[Jastinyah] Will the shura convene tomorrow?

[Shah] Yes. The shura will convene tomorrow in Rawalpindi to grant a vote of confidence to the provisional government on the same day.

[Jastinyah] What is the objective of the shura meeting?

[Shah] The objective is to support the government. That's all.

[Jastinyah] Is the shura temporary?

[Shah] Yes. It is temporary, for 1 week only. The permanent shura will convene after the elections.

[Jastinyah] Will the task of tomorrow's shura session end once the provisional government is granted support?

[Shah] Yes. The council will be dissolved. We are now preparing to hold elections on the basis of which the official shura of the Afghan state will be established.

[Jastinyah] Is the provisional government's task to convene the state's permanent shura?

[Shah] Yes, certainly.

[Jastinyah] When will the provisional government's task end?

[Shah] It has another 8 months. During this period the government will present itself to the elected shura for support. If the council agrees, the government will then continue, otherwise another government will be elected.

[Jastinyah] How will the rest of the ministers be nominated, when the shura meeting is only hours away?

[Shah] We now have 28 ministries. We have added 7 to the 21 ministries already agreed upon. Every organization will nominate a representative. Some ministers will come from among those living in exile outside Pakistan and Iran. Some ministers will come from among Muslims coming from Kabul. In this way we will be able to complete the government's structure.

[Jastinyah] Will nominations be on a party basis?

[Shah] Yes. Nominations will be made on both a party and nonparty basis.

[Jastinyah] Do you expect any disputes over the allocation of cabinet positions?

[Shah] (angrily) I rule that out completely. No disputes are expected, God willing.

[Jastinyah] Some observers believe that the Soviets will try to contact the eight Tehran-based parties to secure an agreement with the Najibullah regime, not only for the sake of an agreement but also to confront the Islamic Alliance of Afghan Mujahidin.

[Shah] This attempt—which they have made many times before—is bound to fail. These things are not new to us. Even if they do meet, which will not happen, they will achieve nothing. We will fight anyone supporting Najibullah and the agent government.

[Jastinyah] Even if it is the eight parties?

[Shah] Even if it is the eight parties or any party from the seven Pakistan-based parties. This is a unanimous mujahidin decision, to which there will be no alternative. Anyhow, we will fight anyone supporting the agent Najib. This is a general decision by the mujahidin.

[Jastinyah] Following the Soviet foreign minister's talks with officials in Pakistan, do you believe that the Pakistani Government has put pressure on the mujahidin to accept the decisions of the eight Tehran-based parties?

[Shah] Up to now the Pakistani position has not changed and they have never put pressure on us. The foreign minister, his deputy, and others, went there but could not persuade anyone to put pressure on us. The world today knows that we have been attacked on our own territory and that the Soviets are the invaders of Afghanistan.

[Jastinyah] If negotiations were to be held between the two sides, who would be more flexible on the Soviet side, the foreign minister or his deputy?

[Shah] I have never met the foreign minister or his deputy. They are, however, two sides of the same coin. There is an Afghan proverb that says: The fox is the brother of another animal whose Arabic name I do not know but we call here "shaghal" (jackal).

[Jastinyah] What if the Soviets request a different kind of dialogue with the mujahidin? What is your opinion, in your capacity as the government's head?

[Shah] Unacceptable ... unacceptable ... completely unacceptable.

[Jastinyah] What about the constitution of the Afghan state?

[Shah] Part of the state's constitution has already been prepared and agreed upon by the leaders. We have some experts who will complete the constitution.

[Jastinyah] So the constitution will be completed later?

[Shah] Yes. When the government assumes its legitimate capacity we will start completing the draft constitution.

[Jastinyah] So the preliminary steps concerning the constitution have already been taken.

[Shah] Yes, quite a while ago.

[Jastinyah] What about Najibullah's position and the Soviet arms and equipment being supplied to him? Will this delay the fall of Kabul?

[Shah] The Soviets have supplied the Kabul regime with arms and equipment for 10 years, not 10 days, without any success. So how can they achieve any now? They will never be able to defend themselves even if the Soviets supply them with the mightiest weapons and develop their military capabilities. It is merely a media war aimed at something.

[Jastinyah] The Soviets will stay, even after the withdrawal, as consultants, technicians, and advisers—something which we can see today in the Afghan arena and territory. What is your view?

[Shah] We do not want any of them. We have been at war for 10 years, so why should we accept any of them? We will fight them until the last soldier leaves Afghanistan.

[Jastinyah] If the Najibullah regime requests direct negotiations with the mujahidin, what will your reply be as prime minister and head of state in the next stage?

[Shah] We have unanimously agreed that we will not sit down with him even for a single second—neither with Najib, nor with his colleagues, nor with Russian agents inside and outside Afghanistan.

[Jastinyah] It sounds as though you are asking him to surrender since he has no hope of escape.

[Shah] Yes. I am urging him to surrender willingly and immediately hand over power in Kabul to us.

India

USSR's Vorontsov Arrives for Talks on Afghanistan

BK1602075089 Delhi Domestic Service in English 0730 GMT 16 Feb 89 89

[Text] The first Soviet deputy foreign minister, Mr Yuliy Vorontsov, arrived in New Delhi this morning for talks with Indian leaders on Afghanistan. According to an official spokesman, he will meet the prime minister and the external affairs minister and discuss various aspects of the Afghan situation, including humanitarian assistance, following the withdrawal of Soviet troops. Mr Vorontsov is accompanied by some senior officials.

Holds Talks With Gandhi, Rao

BK1602145089 Delhi Domestic Service in English 1430 GMT 16 Feb 89

[Text] The first Soviet deputy foreign minister, Mr Yuliy Vorontsov, had a meeting with the prime minister, Mr Rajiv Gandhi, in New Delhi this evening. Mr Vorontsov, who is the Soviet Union's chief negotiator on Afghanistan, earlier met the external affairs minister, Mr Narasimha Rao. He also had talks with the new foreign secretary, Mr S.K. Singh. Mr Vorontsov arrived in the capital early this morning on a 2-day visit.

An official spokesman has described the visit as part of the on-going consultations between the two countries. Answering questions on Afghanistan, the spokesman said India would like to see return of peace and end of fighting in that country. He said India stands for a peaceful and nonaligned Afghanistan.

British Airways on Alert Following Bomb Threat

BK1602120089 Hong Kong AFP in English 1156 GMT 16 Feb 89

[Text] New Delhi, Feb 16 (AFP)—British Airways (BA) here was on alert Thursday [16 February] after a telephone threat that all British planes flying to India would be bombed if Indian-born author Salman Rushdie was not immediately brought out of hiding, an airline spokesman said.

He said a caller identifying himself as a spokesman for an Iranian radical group made the threat in a telephone call Thursday to the Bombay bureau of the Indian news agency UNITED NEWS OF INDIA (UNI) who passed on the information to the airline.

"We have to take the threat very seriously," said the spokesman. "We are taking full precautions." He did not elaborate.

The UNI report said the caller who identified himself as a spokesman for the Iranian radical group Iranian Guards "threatened to bomb all British planes flying to India and outside until such time as Salman Rushdie is taken out of hiding."

He reportedly added in halting English: "The Iranians know where he (Mr. Rushdie) is hiding, but we don't want to create trouble for the British Government."

Indian-born Mr. Rushdie is the author of "The Satanic Verses," a novel that Muslim fundamentalists have charged is a blasphemous book against the Prophet Muhammad.

On Tuesday, Iranian leader Ayatollah Ruhollah Khomeyni urged Muslims to seek out and kill Mr. Rushdie, who reportedly went into hiding a day later saying he took the threat very seriously.

The Bombay caller also threatened to execute Indian poet-journalist Dom Moraes, who has criticised the ayatollah's call, and to "punish adequately" Hindu community leaders Bal Thackeray, Madhu Mehta and Usha Mehta. All three live in Bombay.

Threats Taken 'Seriously'

LD1602150189 London PRESS ASSOCIATION in English 1402 GMT 16 Feb 89

[By Peter Woodman, PRESS ASSOCIATION air correspondent]

[Text] British Airways was today taking seriously bomb threats to its planes over the Salman Rushdie affair.

An Indian news agency in Bombay is reported to have received a telephone call from a person claiming to represent an Iranian group. The caller spoke of a threat to bomb British Airways planes flying to India "until such time as Mr Salman Rushdie is taken out of his hiding".

The caller from the unknown "Iranian Guards", also told the UNITED NEWS OF INDIA the group would kill prominent Indians who had criticised Iranian leader Ayatollah Khomeyni for calling for the killing of Mr Rushdie over his allegedly anti-Islamic novel The Satanic Verses.

But the Iranian Consulate in Bombay dismissed the threat as "absurd and mischief-mongering", saying they had never heard of the group.

British Airways said today: "To maintain the integrity of our security operation we cannot comment on individual cases. However, wherever and whenever necessary, action will always be taken in respect of security matters."

The airline added: "We are in constant touch, as a matter of course, with security services around the world and the safety of our aircraft and passengers is never compromised."

Another British airline, Air Europe, which flies to Goa in India, is also treating the threats seriously.

Speaking on BBC television's One O'Clock News, Air Europe spokesman Pauline Kirkman said: "We are monitoring the situation and will take any additional steps necessary."

The spokesman for the Iranian Consulate said: "We condemn all violent activities including bombing."

The British deputy high commission in Bombay said it had not received notice of the threat.

Bombay Police Commissioner V.K. Saraf said he did not think much of the call but added: "We will take note of it. Every threat is serious."

Indian intelligence officials in New Delhi said they would alert their operatives in Indian cities with sizeable Iranian populations and put pro-Khomeyni students under surveillance.

"The call might have come from one of them and they could always do something funny," an official in New Delhi told REUTER news agency.

Only yesterday, BA Chairman Lord King spoke of his airline's commitment to safety. He said: "If there are organisations that ever take safety and security for granted, then I can assure you that British Airways is not one of them."

The threat came as world politicians, including Transport Secretary Paul Channon, continued their special International Civil Aviation organisation meeting in Montreal, Canada, about air security following the Lockerbie disaster last December.

Earlier today Britain protested to Iran "in the strongest terms" at the statement by Ayatollah Khomeyni passing a death sentence on Mr Rushdie. Britain's charge d'affaires in Tehran, Mr Nicholas Browne, went to the Iranian Foreign Ministry to obtain clarification of the Ayatollah's statement.

The Foreign Office said he had expressed Britain's "grave concern" but did not receive satisfaction.

The Iranian charge d'affairs, Mr Ahkunzadeh-Basti, was then summoned to the Foreign Office to be told of the British attitude. The British response is understood to have been approved at today's cabinet meeting at Downing Street.

The diplomatic exchanges came as Tehran radio, monitored in Nicosia, today said a religious leader had increased the price on Mr Rushdie's head to 3 million pounds sterling.

Cambridge-educated Mr Rushdie was in hiding somewhere in Britain with a round-the-clock armed police guard.

Assam Security Tightened Before Proposed Strike

BK1502161589 Delhi Domestic Service in English 1530 GMT 15 Feb 89

[Text] The Assam government today tightened the security measures in the Bodo stronghold of Kokrajhar District and Udalguri Subdivision in Darrang District in view of the proposed 120-hour Assam bundh [strike] beginning tomorrow morning. The bundh has been called by the Bodo Students Union to press its demand for a separate state for the plains tribal population of Assam. According to a spokesman of the state government the Army is kept ready to meet any situation arising out of the bundh. Nine companies of the CRPF [Central Reserve Police Force] have also been deployed in Kokrajhar and Udalguri for maintaining law and order. The state home minister, Mr Brighu Kumar Phukan, visited Kokrajhar District to oversee the security arrangements.

Meanwhile, in the continuing violence in these two districts the Bodo extremists shot dead a laborer at (Ashavadi) yesterday. With this, the death toll in the violence since Friday last [10 February] has gone up to 17. There are also reports of Bodo extremists setting a large number of houses on fire.

The Center has assured the Assam government of all help in meeting the state's genuine problems. The assurance was given by the home minister, Mr Buta Singh, to the state chief minister, Mr P.K. Mahanta, during their meeting in New Delhi today. They reviewed the progress of the implementation of the Assam accord and the situation in the state arising out of the on-going agitation by the Assam Bodo Students Union. Mr Buta Singh said that the Center is against violence by any section of the people. He asked the state government to initiate a dialogue with the dissatisfied sections and take steps for mutual confidence building. He reiterated the Center's full commitment to the speedy implementation of the Assam accord.

Strike Paralyzes Normal Life

BK1602065389 Delhi Domestic Service in English 0630 GMT 16 Feb 89

[Text] In Assam, normal life was paralyzed in the Kokrajhar District and Udalguir Subdivision in Darrang District following a 120-hour Assam bundh [strike] which began this morning. The bundh has been called by the Bodo Students Union to press its demand for a separate state for the plains tribal people in the state.

According to official reports reaching Guwahati, partial bundh is also being observed in Nalbari, Kamrup, and some other Bodo-dominated pockets. Reports said barring some incidents of stone throwing and attempted arson, there are no reports of any major incidents from Kokrajhar and Udalguri. In the Kokrajhar District, government offices, banks, educational institutions, and other business establishments are closed. Vehicular traffic, including state transport buses, are off the road.

2 Killed, 5 Injured in Bomb Blast in Punjab

BK1602065889 Delhi Domestic Service in English 0630 GMT 16 Feb 89

[Text] In Punjab, eight more terrorists have been arrested during raids in different places since yesterday evening. According to official sources, five of them were arrested in Bhatinda, two in Ludhiana, and one in Ferozepore District. A large quantity of arms and ammunition has been recovered from their possession.

Meanwhile, terrorists gunned down an assistant subinspector of police in Ahmadgarh Town of Sangrur District last night.

In another incident, two persons were killed and five injured in a bomb explosion on the main road near Kala Afghana Village in Gurdaspur District this morning.

Iran

Reaction to Salman Rushdie Book Continues

Hashemi-Rafsanjani Address

LD1502140789 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 1030 GMT 15 Feb 89

[Speech by Hojjat ol-Eslam 'Ali Akbar Hashemi-Rafsanjani, speaker of the Majlis, at an open Majlis session in Tehran 15 February—recorded]

[Text] In the name of God, the merciful, the compassionate. Our esteemed deputies and people are aware of this act of sedition [fitneh] which global infidelity has planned for the world of Islam. They are following specific targets with specific motives in mind with regard to their insults to Islamic sanctities. It is possible that some rascals and satanic people in society may warp the minds of the people by making such insinuations as: What importance does a book, or a writer who has done something wrong, possess to merit such a sensation, or measures or a public holiday throughout society or to cause demonstrations in the Islamic world? Therefore, this point needs to be thrashed out. It is necessary to do so because if our nation is to be exposed to such temptations, it must know that this is not the problem. This is only as it appears.

What can be surmised from the summation of the events—events that prompted our great leader, the imam of the ummah, to embark on such spirited confrontation and also outraged the deputy leader, the grand ayatollahs, the clerics, and people throughout the world—is that such outrage and confrontation are caused by both what goes on behind the scenes and what one can see.

What one can perceive through current events is that planning and organizational work has been carried out that is aimed at bringing about a very dangerous move, one that is worse than an officially declared war.

Following the blows they received from Iran, which they saw in Lebanon and Afghanistan, as well as the dynamism and awareness they saw in Muslims all over the world, they arrived at the conclusion—in their analysis—that all this stems from the holiness that covers everything sacred in Islam. This keeps the minds of the Muslims clean. This gives dynamism and happiness to the world of Islam.

Materialism and all kinds of political forces failed to break this holiness, so they chose this method of action: choosing a person who seemingly comes from India and who apparently is separate from the Western world and has a misleading name. They begin their work in this fashion. Advance royalties were given to that person. One can see that they appoint guards for him in advance because they knew what they were doing. One can see that a Zionist publishing establishment is involved, and that translations already have been prepared in countries like the United States and Italy.

We see that the publicity encourages the people to buy the book. All this tells us of an organized and planned effort. It is not an ordinary work so that one might say that many books have been written so far, that insults to Islam have been frequent, that many others have said evil things against God and everything else, and that that is the way it has been throughout history. Yes, this true, but I believe there has not previously been such a well-planned act as the way this is being done. This is a confrontation to break the sanctity of Islam and all that is sacred in Islam.

Therefore, the importance of the issue merits that our great leader, who usually does not involve himself in personal issues, should involve himself forcefully in order to express his anger. It is always incumbent upon us to obey his orders. We know he always raises issues related to Islam in a timely manner and that he creates confrontation well in time.

It is incumbent upon the Islamic world to regard this issue seriously so that Islam's enemies may learn such methods will not lead them anywhere and so that those who allow themselves to be manipulated into such acts by Islam's enemies may learn that they are involved in dangerous issues.

Well, the logic of Islam is clear. The Koran, from the very early days, instructed Muslims: Revile not ye those whom they call upon besides God, lest they out of spite revile God in their ignorance. This is the logic of the Koran—not to use bad language, or insulting ways either in the sacred schools or in anything sacred to the nations. The Koran does not indulge in bad language, nor does it accept it; nor does it shirk from opposing insults to the sacred things of other peoples. For us this applies to other religions. If today somebody insults His Holiness Moses, Abraham, or His Holiness Jesus, then we must stand up against such insults with the same intensity.

These are sanctities in which the majority of the people believe. You see how the Koran campaigns against accusations inflicted on Her Holiness Mary.

Such a method is an unreasonable one. We expect the world's Christians and Jews—those who do not espouse the Zionistic spirit—to protest seriously to obstruct such a foul move. The issue is more serious than the mere publication of a book or a novel so that one may say that some book has been written and the matter is closed.

UK's Howe 'Cautious'

LD1502145289 Tehran IRNA in English 1440 GMT 15 Feb 89

["Howe Cautious About Imam's Fatwah on Rushdie"—IRNA headline]

[Text] London, Feb. 15, IRNA—Foreign Secretary Sir Geoffrey Howe says he would prefer not to say too much about the edict issued by Imam Khomeyni on the life of Indian-born Muslim Salman Rushdie for his blatantly blasphemous book on Islam.

Britain is currently trying to improve ties with Iran and Howe said such a pronouncement illustrated the "extreme difficulty of establishing the right kind of relations with a manifested revolutionary regime with ideas very much of its own."

It was a matter of "very grave concern" but it "wouldn't be right" for him to say more than that while Britain was "looking into the background of it as fully as possible."

The foreign secretary was making his first formal comments on BBC domestic radio Wednesday following the religious decree sanctioned by the leader of the Islamic revolution that under Islamic law the British-based author should be sentenced to death.

His muted tone underlined the seriousness being attached to the fatwah, thought to be the first of its kind from the imam. Tuesday's parliamentary deliberation also had a similar hollow echo, where no questions were raised about the decree or for Prime Minister Thatcher to comment.

In a mixed reaction from the British press Wednesday, no newspaper except the right-wing London TIMES broke ranks to demand that the government must consider cutting relations with Iran.

Howe in his remarks maintained that the whole business of diplomatic relations was "not to serve the end of diplomats" but rather to serve the "safety above all" with the people of Britain.

On Iran's information minister's statement that British spy Roger Cooper had been recommended with a "heavy ruling," the foreign secretary was again coy and repeated that he did not want to say much at this stage as "facts needed to be investigated more fully."

Further details on both issues are understood to be sought by Britain's new charge d'affaires in Tehran, Nicholas Browne, who is planning to call upon the Foreign Ministry on Thursday.

Tehran Marchers Threaten Force

LD1502220489 Tehran in English to Europe 1930 GMT 15 Feb 89

[Text] As many as tens of thousands of revolutionary and Muslim people of Tehran took part in a spectacular march this afternoon and expressed their anger and hatred toward the publication of the blasphemous book, "The Satanic Verses." According to the ISLAMIC REPUBLIC NEWS AGENCY, after this march, which was called for by the Union of Students Islamic Societies, the demonstrators gathered in front of the British Embassy.

Based on this report, at the end of this procession the (?marchers) issues a nine-point statement. Part of this statement has referred to the evil nature of Western imperialism, saying that the silence and nonadoption of a stance by Islamic governments, their clergies, and intellectuals is treason against Islam and the holy Koran; and the world's Muslims and deprived masses will not remain indifferent toward it. In the statement, the governments of Pakistan and India have been called upon to identify the attackers of those who massacred the protesting Muslims and punish them.

In another part of this statement it has been said: Britain and all prominent oppression ring-leaders [as heard] should know that insults of this type will not be forgotten by our revolutionary nation and that with all our might we will prevent the expansion of extortionism and immunity [as heard] of American agents even if it be by means of forceful combat.

Envoy Summoned

LD1602123489 London PRESS ASSOCIATION in English 1206 GMT 16 Feb 89

[By Chris MonCrieff and Tom McMullan, PRESS ASSOCIATION]

[Excerpt] Iran's charge d'affaires was summoned to the Foreign Office today to discuss the growing difficulties in Britain's relations with Iran following Ayatollah Khomeyni's sentence of death on author Salman Rushdie.

It appears that the decision to summon Mr Akhunzadeh-Basti followed the meeting in Tehran early today between Britain's charge d'affaires, Mr Nicholas Browne, and a senior official in the Iranian Foreign

Ministry. Mr Browne is understood to have told the official that the ayatollah's remarks were unacceptable and not compatible with normal relations between the two countries. He made no secret of the British Government's disapproval at what is regarded as an interference in internal affairs. Mr Browne made clear, too, that efforts to improve relations between Iran and Britain were unlikely to be extended as long as this kind of conduct continued. Mr Browne was seeking clarification of the ayatollah's reported death call remarks and of the reports that detained British businessman Mr Roger Cooper, 53, may be facing a heavy sentence for alleged espionage. Mr Akhunzadeh-Basti was due to meet senior Foreign Office official Mr David Gore-Booth.

Mr Rushdie was still in hiding today with round-the-clock armed guard as two European publishing houses decided not to distribute his novel "The Satanic Verses." Sales of the book in Britain have not been affected by the growing row over the book which is said to be blasphemous in Islamic eyes, according to publishers Viking. Plans for a paperback launch in September are going ahead. But Italian publishers Arnoldo Mondaroi Editore SPA and French group Presse de la Cite have both put plans for distribution of the book on ice.

The ayatollah's sentence on Mr Rushdie is widely seen as a major setback in Foreign Secretary Sir Geoffrey Howe's attempt to improve relations with Iran. The Foreign Office so far has made no comment on any deterioration, despite the stone throwing by a mob outside the British Embassy in Tehran yesterday. [passage omitted]

[London PRESS ASSOCIATION in English 1054 GMT carries a similar report that contains the following additional information: "Pakistan lodged formal protests today with Britain and the United States demanding that the novel be banned and all copies destroyed. The British and U.S. ambassadors were summoned to the Foreign Ministry to receive the protests, said a ministry spokesman."]

Embassy Staff Increase Halted

LD1602135489 London PRESS ASSOCIATION in English 1327 GMT 16 feb 89

[By Tom McMullan, PRESS ASSOCIATION political staff]

[Text] Britain today protested to Iran "in the strongest terms" at the statement by Ayatollah Khomeyni passing a death sentence on author Salman Rushdie.

Britain's charge d'affaires in Tehran, Mr Nicholas Browne, went to the Iranian Foreign Ministry to obtain clarification of the ayatollah's statement.

The diplomatic exchanges came as Tehran radio, monitored in Nicosia, today said a religious leader had increased the price on Mr Rushdie's head to 3 million pounds sterling.

After Mr Browne's visit, the Foreign Office issued a statement saying that he had expressed Britain's "grave concern" at the ayatollah's incitement to violence against the author and publishers of "The Satanic Verses".

However Mr Browne apparently found the meeting unsatisfactory.

He had also sought clarification of reports that Mr Roger Cooper, 53, the British businessman and journalist, who has been detained for three years, faces a lengthy prison sentence for alleged espionage.

In London the Foreign Office reacted by summoning the Iranian charge d'affaires, Mr Akhundzadeh-Basti, to be told of the British attitude.

The British response is understood to have been approved at today's Cabinet meeting at Downing Street.

The statement added: "Mr Browne did not receive satisfaction on this question. We have therefore summoned the Iranian charge d'affaires to the Foreign Office to protest in the strongest terms at the ayatollah's statement.

"We recognise that Moslems and others may have strong views about the contents of Mr Rushdie's book. However no one has the right to incite people to violence on British soil or against British citizens.

"This is incompatible with the United Nations Charter and constitutes interference in our internal affairs contrary to the British-Iran agreement and joint statement of November 10, 1988. Ayatollah Khomeyni's statement is totally unacceptable."

The Iranian envoy saw a senior official, Mr David Gore-Booth, who explained that Britain would not be able to establish normal diplomatic relations with Iran "while the Iranian Government failed to respect fully international standards of behaviour".

The statement said: "We have decided that in present circumstances we cannot build up further our Embassy in Tehran."

It added: "We have repeated our request to the Iranians for adequate protection of the British Embassy staff. We have received assurances on this point."

Britain has three diplomats and one support staff in its embassy. The intention under the agreement of last November was that the embassy should be built up to a total of 16 diplomats. This was expected to be completed within six months concluding with the exchange of ambassadors.

However the Foreign Office said today that the Embassy in Tehran would remain at its present level for the time being.

Asked what had happened at the 45-minute meeting as he emerged from the Foreign Office, Mr Akhundzadeh-Basti said: "I said the decree or the verdict that was given by the leader of the revolution was in fact after careful consideration of the case. As you know it is more than five months that this book has been issued."

Mr Akhundzadeh-Basti said there had been "appalling effects" caused by Mr Rushdie's novel.

"We had six or seven Muslims killed because of this infamous book," he said, referring to protest riots in Pakistan.

"This book deals directly with the foundation of a religion that has more than one billion followers.

"We sometimes were criticized about why the imam did not give this opinion right at the beginning of the publication of the book, but it is a very complex job. He had examined all sides of the issue and gave his verdict which is called in Islam, fatwah."

Asked if the ayatollah's decree meant any Muslim was duty bound to kill Mr Rushdie, the charges d'affaires replied: "As I have said it's a decree, a verdict, after careful religous consideration. I believe that it has been made after considering all the effects of this book. In those circumstances, Muslims may themselves know how to respond to a fatwah. That you have got to ask individual Muslims."

Mr Akhundzadeh-Basti appeared to say that as a diplomatic representative he could be excused the call to murder the author himself. "My personal case, of course, I am performing a special duty here. There's provision for such cases." He added: "There are different cases, that has got to be verified with the imam personally."

Mr Akhundzadeh-Basti said he had told Foreign Office officials that the death sentence was nothing to do with Britain itself. "It is nothing to do with a particular country it is a general opinion expressed and give vividly."

Mr Akhundzadeh-Basti said he accepted there may be a "temporary sort of consideration" between Britain and Iran caused by the decree, but added: "I have said that this is not anything to do with the normalisation of the relationship."

He said: "We never specified in our previous discussions with the Foreign Office that we would go with a particular timetable." Mr Basti was then hurried into his waiting diplomatic car.

UK Muslims Support Edict

LD1502153889 Tehran IRNA in English 1454 GMT 15 Feb 89

[Text] London, Feb. 15, IRNA—Muslims in Britain acknowledge that blasphemy and sacrilege is a capital offence under Islamic law and have welcomed the unprecedented edict from Imam Khomeyni about the punishment of known slanderer Salman Rushdie.

Secretary of Bradford Council of Mosques in northern England, Sayyed Abdul Quddus [name as received] said that Muslims throughout Britain had sworn to carry out the fatwah [edict] from the spiritual leader of the Islamic revolution should the opportunity arise.

Rushdie had "tormented islam and had to pay the penalty," he said, adding that he was in "total agreement" with the decree issued on Tuesday and that the British-based Indian-born author "deserved to be killed."

Quddus has been a leader campaigner against the "The Satanic Verses" since it was published last October in Britain and helped to organise the first Muslim demonstrations against the slanderous book that eventually led to public burnings of it last month.

Convener of the U.K. Action Committee on Islamic Affairs, Iqbal Sacranie [name as received] helped to make the campaign nationwide believed that the fatwah came as no surprise as it was according to Islamic law.

He was certainly convinced that it could have come to no surprise to Rushdie and the book's publishers Viking, whom he said "must have been aware at the very onset when the book was published it was going to cause tremendous offence."

Similar comments were expressed by the vice-chairman of the U.K. Islamic mission, Bashir Ansari, who said that retribution was justified not only against the author but against anyone knowingly involved in its publication.

German convert and chancellor of Muslim education services, Sahib Mustaqim Bleher [name as received] said that it was "certainly true" under the Islamic legal system that the offence Rushdie committed carried the death penalty and that the fact was well-known.

Reaction elsewhere from members of parliament was concerned about the effect the fatwah was having on the 1.5 million British community with Labour representative for Bradford, Max Madden leading calls for Muslims to disregard the religious decree.

UK Press on Edict

LD1502173589 Tehran IRNA in English 1717 GMT 15 Feb 89

[Text] London, Feb. 15, IRNA—Imam Khomeyni sanctioning the death sentence on British passport holder Salman Rushdie is headline news in all British papers Wednesday but their treatment of the coverage slightly varies.

Most dailies focused upon the Indian-born author of "The Satanic Verses" going into hiding and seeking police protection following the spiritual leader's fatwah [edict].

But many seemed more concerned about the effect on the U.K.'s 1.5 million Muslim community than to fears that it may jeopardise London's newly restored relations with Tehran.

The central theme was underlined on Tuesday night, where British television news bulletins were seen following the Foreign Office's attempt to play down the importance of the unprecedented decree.

They made it a point that the call came from the "spiritual leader" of the Islamic revolution and not the Iranian Government.

The news analysis prompted a series of features that for the first time offered some insight into the seriousness of Muslim grievances about the slanderous book.

In selected editorials [in] THE TIMES, THE INDEPENDENT and THE GUARDIAN newspapers more criticism was concentrated on the decree itself, but largely lacked any perception of Islamic law and tend to confuse the issue with secular international law.

Meanwhile Iran offered a million dollars for any foreigner carrying out Imam Khomeyni's death sentence against the accursed author.

"Anyone killed trying to execute the devil Rushdie is a martyr and the 15th of Khordad relief agency will take lifetime care of his family," the head of the charity foundation Hojjat ol-Eslam Yusef Sane'i said.

Mohtashemi on 'Sordid Plot'

LD1502214989 Tehran IRNA in English 2139 GMT 15 Feb 89

[Text] Tehran, Feb. 15, IRNA—The Interior Minister today held the U.S. and British intelligence services as well as international Zionism directly responsible for publication of "The Satanic Verses."

"Such sacrilege by global arrogance betrays the deep animosity of Europe and the West towards Islam," stressed Hojjat ol-Eslam 'Ali Akbar Mohtashemi.

At a commemoration service here for those martyred in Pakistan and India while protesting against the blasphemy, he said American, British and Zionist publishing companies had heavily invested in Salman Rushdie's "The Satanic Verses."

Mohtashemi noted that the whole sordid plot was a global arrogance design to test the patience of one billion Muslims and to wage a new war against Islam and the Islamic revolution.

The death sentence for the Indian born apostate Salman Rushdie, and those involved in the publication of the satanic work, was pronounced by the leader of the Islamic revolution, Imam Khomeyni Tuesday.

In Islam, apostasy carries death penalty, and the imam's handing down of the decree was a just and timely defense of the world's nearly 1.5 billion Muslims.

The interior minister pointed that the foes of Islam frustrated in their direct confrontation with the ummah, especially in Iran over the past decade, have summoned all their devilish experts and mercenaries to draw up anew strategy against Islam.

His speech was interrupted several times by an excited audience calling for closure of the British Embassy in Tehran and carrying out of Imam Khomeyni's death sanction against accursed Rushdie who holds British citizenship.

Shi'ite Leader Comments

NC1502154989 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 0330 GMT 15 Feb 89

[Text] Following Imam Khomeyni's decree on the author and publishers of the insulting book "The Satanic Verses," Hojjat ol-Eslam Sayyid Sajed 'Ali Naqavi, leader of the Ja'fari sect and of the Shi'ites of Pakistan, has issued a statement calling on the Muslims of the world and especially the Muslim Pakistani nation to implement the imam's decree immediately.

The Central News Unit reports that the leader of the Pakistani Shi'ites refered to the new plot by the Great Satan, the United States, and international Zionism against the Muslims of the world, in the publication and propagation of a book that insults the sacred integrity of the prophet of God, peace be upon him and his scion, and the holy Koran by an American publishing company known as Penguin and written by a person known as Salman Rushdie. He called on the world of Islam in general, and the Muslim nation of Pakistan in particular, to immediately send this criminal who has insulted the revered prophet of Islam to hell and to ban the publications by this Zionist office.

In his message Mr Sayyid Sajed 'Ali Naqavi has also declared Friday, 17 February, as a day of public protest in Pakistan and has called on the Muslim people of Pakistan

to hold memorial ceremonies for the martyrs of the recent movement to declare their aversion on the secretive acts by world arrogance, and to destroy, as soon as possible, the said books in libraries and bookshops, so that the hostile propaganda against Islam will be stopped.

The leader of the Shi'ites of Pakistan also called on the Pakistani Government to act immediately in gathering the published books and to publish, as soon as possible, for public perusal the outcome of the investigation by the committee that has been assigned by the judge of the Supreme Court. He called on the government to hang in public those who fired at the devotees of the great prophet of Islam, and to sympathize with and support the families and relatives of the martyrs.

Stressing the need for full alertness of the Muslim Pakistani nation toward plots by world-devouring imperialism and old colonialism, Britain, the leader of the Pakistani Shi'ites called on Islamic governments and nations to bring this common issue up at the international court and to place Penguin publishers on trial.

Majlis Deputies Condemn Rushdie

LD1502174389 Tehran Television Service in Persian 1600 GMT 15 Feb 89

[Text] In a statement today Majlis deputies expressed their revulsion toward the insulting conspiracies of world arrogance. They stressed: We, the deputies of the Islamic Consultative Assembly of Iran, seeking to demonstrate the power of Islam which has penetrated the depths of the existence of 1 billion Muslims of the world, and at the decree of our aware and uncompromising imam, express our divine anger. We call on all the Muslims of Iran to take part in the Friday prayers in Tehran in a most glorious fashion and express their wrath toward U.S. and British arrogance and international Zionism.

In its meeting today the Supreme Judicial Council, also condemned the tragic incidents which took place in Pakistan and India which led to the martyrdom of some of the defenders of Islam and of the Koran. It called on the judicial authorities and lawyers of Islamic countries, especially from Pakistan, to condemn those incidents and to prosecute the agents of this conspiracy, both those responsible for the publication and distribution of "The Satanic Verses", and those responsible for shooting at believing Muslim individuals, at supporters of the dignity of Islam and of the Koran.

Minorities Express 'Fury'

LD1502165289 Tehran IRNA in English 1617 GMT 15 Feb 89

[Text] Tehran, Feb. 15, IRNA—Religious minorities in Iran joined their Muslim compatriots today in expressing wrath and fury over Indian-born Salman Rushdie's blasphemous book "The Satanic Verses" which is a direct affront to all Islamic sentiments.

Deputies of minorities in Majlis (parliament) such as Armenians, Assyrians, Jews and Zoroastrians issued a joint statement condemning the new global arrogance plot against the sanctities of Muslims.

Tehran's Armenian Archbishop Ardak Manukian came out with a strongly-worded note against the publication of the sacrilegious book which he termed as "a provocative move and a global arrogance plot against Islam and Muslim."

Another of the many Christian sects, the Society of Iranian Assyrians also expressed hatred over the poisoned pen of the British author and termed it as "a new vicious move of the Zionists." It asked would Christian forums to protest the publication of "The Satanic Verses".

Khakham Davidi the rabbi of Iranian Jews also poured scorn over "The Satanic Verses" which has insulted the prophets of Islam including Abraham and Muhammad (peace be upon them).

"As spiritual head of the Jewish minority in Iran I condemn the the author and publishers of "the satanic novel" and sympathised with "our Muslim compatriots on behalf of the Jews," he said.

Imam Khomeyni's historic decreeing to death of the evil author and those knowingly involved in "The Satanic Verses" Tuesday has generated a tidal wave of protest worldwide.

Earlier today Majlis Speaker Hojjat ol-Eslam Akbar Hashemi-Rafsanjani commenting on world Muslims' unprecedented reaction towards the shocking book said even if prophets Moses and Jesus (peace be upon them) were insulted, Muslims would show similar reaction.

Islam regards prophets Noah, Abraham, Moses and Jesus (peace be upon them) as four greatest prophets who preceded God's final messenger to mankind Prophet Muhammad (peace be upon him).

Media Urged To Act

LD1502174889 Tehran Television Service in Persian 1600 GMT 15 Feb 89

[Text] The supervisory council and the managing director of the Voice and Vision of the Islamic Republic of Iran have called on all the radio and television networks in Islamic and enlightened countries of the world to expose the arrogant and Zionist conspiracy and to prevent the repetition of such acts which might in future insult the sacred threshold of all the prophets of God.

Press on 'Death Sentence'
LD1502202889 Tehran IRNA in English 1927 GMT 15 Feb 89

[Text] Tehran, Feb. 15, IRNA—The wrath of the ummah against Salman Rushdie's "The Satanic Verses" is a clear indication that people the world over would not tolerate attacks on spiritual beliefs they hold dear, Iranian dailies wrote in editorials today, Wednesday.

"People can never be indifferent towards insults, mean and lightheadedness towards their spiritual beliefs, values and ideals," ETTELA'AT wrote.

RESALAT agreed and said the accursed author, who received the death sentence from Imam Khomeyni for his satanic work, "undoubtedly has the full support of the American intelligence agencies."

"Muslims of the world are serious in safeguarding their Islamic values and would never tolerate such evil and the trampling of their sanctities. They will pay any price for their dignity," the paper added.

The daily KEYHAN compared "The Satanic Verses" with attempts in Pahlavi Iran to discredit the authenticity of Islam. It recalled the book "23 Years" written anonymously questioning the prophecy of Mohammad (peace be upon him) and also the blasphemous works of the apostate Ahmad Kasravi who promoted Iran's pre-Islamic pagan culture.

The sacrilegious works had appeared during the rule of Reza Khan, who seized power from the Qajarids, in the 1920's and 30's when Islamic leaders were severely persecuted and such Islamic traditions as the Hijab which lends honour and security to women were banned.

The apostate Kasravi was executed by the martyr Hojjat ol-Eslam Nawwab Safavi's Fedayeen-e Eslam group.

"This time international kufr (blasphemy), has invested on Salman Rushdie and published the insulting book "The Satanic Verses" by this British-paid writer..." KEYHAN said.

It also pointed out that the U.S. was not unknown for banning defamatory books on Christianity and those considered to be against its so-called national interest such as collections of confidential documents seized from the U.S. Embassy in Tehran in 1979 when it was taken over by revolutionary Muslim students.

"It must be said that there is big difference between freedom of expression on one hand and attacks on sanctities, sentiments and feelings of a vast section of the world's population on the other," ETTELA'AT wrote.

"The imam decree yesterday (sanctioning Rushdie's execution) is not like what the church has done in instigating religious feelings. It is an order prescribing the defence of an ideal and the divine foundations of the Islamic state," said the daily.

It added: "This is an order for the defence of 1.5 billion humans against the new wave of terror unleashed by colonialism."

IRNA on Nationwide Reaction
LD1502202989 Tehran IRNA in English 2020 GMT 15 Feb 89

[Text] Tehran, Feb. 15, IRNA—The Islamic Republic of Iran was all protest today against the blasphemous book "The Satanic Verses" the poison poured by the pen of British apostate Salman Rushdie against the sanctities of Islam.

Markets, universities and theological schools were closed today as mark of respect to Muslims martyred in Pakistan and India while demonstrating against global arrogance's latest plot against Islam and Prophet Mohammad (peace be upon him). Mourning ceremonies were held in several mosques for the martyrs of Islamabad and Kashmir.

Rallies were staged nationwide, in which Iranian Muslims joined by minorities categorically denounced the devilish conspiracy, with people from all walks of life unanimously backing Imam Khomeyni's decreeing of death penalty for the Indian-born author and publishers of the fiendish work.

Universities such as that of Gorgan (Mazandaran Province) called for Iran's cutting of cultural ties with Britain as the whole country poured scorn over the wicked act.

The Friday prayer secretariat called on all Friday prayer imams throughout the country to explain to the faithful the depth and dimensions of the latest treason against Islam.

While the Council for Coordinating Islamic Propagation asked Iranian people to rally on Friday which measure was seconded by Tehran students.

In separate statements, various organizations and institutes came down heavily on global arrogance's new propaganda plot, and announced support for Imam Khomeyni's "just and timely stand."

In a statement Tuesday, the imam sanctioned death penalty for the accursed author Salman Rushdie and its publishers, declaring that as "martyrs" anyone killed trying to execute his orders.

In related news today, Islamic Iran announced a million dollar reward for killing the fiend. "Anyone killed trying to execute the devil Rushdie is a martyr and the 15th of Khordad relief agency will take lifetime care of his family," head of the charity foundation Hojjat ol-Eslam Yusef Sane'i announced.

Majlis deputies blasted "The Satanic Verses" as "a danger alarm for the Islamic ummah" which is indicative of global arrogance's inborn spite against Islam and all values dear to Muslims.

They called upon Iranian Muslims to express their wrath against the U.S., Britain, and global Zionism at the Friday prayers.

In a separate statement, the Majlis' Foreign Relations Committee flayed London's decision to accord protection to the publishers and writer of the satanic book as "tantamount to making faces at Islam."

The committee warned that world Muslims will never tolerate the insulting of their sanctities.

Tehran's combatant 'ulema denounced the dirty act as "another shameless materialistic plot vis-a-vis the logic and ration of Islam and its prophets." Islam has always been a target for global arrogance and its ungodly mercenaries, they concluded.

Council Urges Denunciation

LD1502193789 Tehran IRNA in English 1820 GMT 15 Feb 89

[Text] Tehran, Feb. 15, IRNA—The Supreme Judicial Council today condemned incidents in Pakistan and India where some defenders of Islam were martyred.

The Council in today's session chaired by Chief Justice Ayatollah 'Abdolkarim Musavi-Ardabili called on judicial officials and legal experts in all Muslim countries, especially those in Pakistan to denounce the incident and sue those involved in the plot and those who opened fire on unarmed Muslims.

The council termed demonstrators killed by police in Pakistan and India as "martyrs".

Six Muslims were martyred by Pakistani police in Islamabad two days ago during a protest rally against publication of Rushdie's satanic work, while according to reports on Muslim was martyred in Indian Kashmir.

Yesterday, the leader of the Islamic revolution, Imam Khomeyni sentenced the devilish author to death, and today Islamic Republic has announced a million dollar reward for anyone who carries out the imam's decree.

Office of the Islamic revolution's prosecutor general in the capital also condemned global arrogance's satanic act and lent support to Muslim demonstrations in Pakistan and India.

The office urged all Muslims throughout the globe to join hands in executing the leader of the Islamic revolution's just decree.

Papal Ban Urged

LD1502210489 Tehran IRNA in English 1755 GMT 15 Feb 89

[Text] Rome, Feb. 15, IRNA—Iran's Ambassador to Vatican City Hojjat ol-Eslam Salman Qaffari today called on Catholic leader Pope John Paul II to ban publication of the Italian version of the book 'Satanic Verses'.

Deploring the translation of the book into Italian Hoj Qaffari cautioned that insulting of Islamic sanctities "should not be repeated in Italy and especially in the center of Christianity".

Salman Rushdie's devilish book has been translated into Italian and is scheduled for publication in Italy a move which would undoubtedly intensify the Islamic ummah's growing wrath against the West.

Qaffari's message to the pope also called on the leader of the world Catholics to oppose such insults, and prove that he is a defender of morals and religion.

More on the same subject Qaffari also sent a message to his Italian counterpart in Vatican to ask the Rome government to ban publication of the book.

In a similar message to the pope Imam Khomeyni's representative and head of the Hajj and Awqaf (religious endowments) Organisation Hojjat ol-Eslam Mahdi Emam Jamarani called on the pope to adopt a just stance against the publication of the book which insults the holy Koran, divine revelation and the great status of Prophet Mohammad (peace be upon him) God's final messenger to mankind.

Sunni Clergy To Wear Shrouds

LD1602132689 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 1030 GMT 16 Feb 89

[Excerpts] According to a Central News Unit report from Orumiyeh, the nation's support for the imam of the ummah's order on the execution of the author and publishers of "The Satanic Verses" continues to expand. The Shi'ite religious college in Orumiyeh was closed today as an expression of support. Sunni clergy, teachers, and seminarians of the Sheykh Shaltut Religious Institute in that province also issued a statement declaring that they are ready to wear their shrouds in Europe and the United States in order to carry out Imam Khomeyni's order and to punish those who insult the holy dignity of the messenger of Islam [Muhammad]—may

God's peace be upon him—for their actions. The statement also invited other Islamic countries not to remain silent in the face of insults to the sanctities of Islam.

The great Islamic center—the Piranshahr branch—has also issued a statement announcing its support, as well as support by the Imam Shafe'i Seminary lecturers and seminarians, for the imam of the ummah's order. [passage omitted]

At the end of their seminar at Martyr Motahhari High School, traders from all over the country expressed their disgust over the plot by Islam's enemies and declared their support for the immam of the ummah's order. [passage omitted]

Bounty on Rushdie Increased

LD1602134289 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 1030 GMT 16 Feb 89

[Text] According to the Central News Unit, the 15 Khordad [5 June] Foundation has announced: Following the offer by this institution's director of a reward for the revolutionary execution of apostate Salman Rushdie, the author of "The Satanic Verses," we have received telephone calls from the martyr-nurturing ummah as well as the families of the martyred and disabled expressing gratitude for this revolutionary measure. They have also asked us to announce the account number into which they can make a donation for this sacred crusade.

Hojjat ol-Eslam Sheykh Mohammad (Hashemian), Friday prayer imam of Rafsanjan, has sent a cable to the blessed presence of the imam of the ummah. In this cable, he said that the ever-present-on-the-scene Muslim people of Rafsanjan have donated 200 million rials as a reward for anyone or any group carrying out the imam's order on the revolutionary execution of the writer and publishers of the anti-Islamic book "The Satanic Verses."

The people of Rafsanjan made the decision in an effort to expedite the implementation of the imam's orders. The decision was made at the end of protest march by the people.

Commentary on 'Satanic Verses'

NC1502125089 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 0545 GMT 15 Feb 89

[Unattributed commentary from the special program devoted to the national mourning day for publication of Salman Rushdie's "The Satanic Verses"]

[Text] In his reaction to the great insult to the Holy Koran, the imam of the ummah has issued a dictum stressing that the author of this book ["The Satanic Verses"] and the publishers who were aware of its contents but still published it are condemned to death. The imam has clarified: I call on all zealous Muslims to execute the author and the publishers of "The Satanic Verses" to execute them wherever they find them, so that no one will dare to insult the Islamic sanctities, and whoever is killed doing this will be regarded as a martyr, God willing.

Definitely, this dictum by the imam as a religious leader will receive wide reaction throughout the world, particularly in the world of Islam. The issue is very clear. The world of arrogance has been slapped in the face by Islam. When it realized that it could not succeed by any means—even by war or by military expedition—to confront the wave of Islam throughout the world of Islam, it is now trying to distort Islam; hence its decision to resort to hireling authors.

The mode by which they have acted shows that this is a programmed move and that if it is not seriously and effectively confronted, we will witness more insulting acts against the sanctities of Muslims in all corners of the world.

Existing facts show that "The Satanic Verses" was published at the request of British Intelligence services by a hireling of Indian origin who lives in England and is known as Salman Rushdie. After its publication, it was introduced by these very intelligence services as the book of the year in Britain. It should be noted that Salman Rushdie is a member of Britain's Royal Academy of Literature. The republication of this anti-Islamic book is in its last phases in the United States, and reports from Italy indicate that preparations are being made to translate and publish it in Italian.

The hands of the intelligence services of world arrogance can be clearly seen in this. They are trying to start a poisonous and disgraceful propaganda campaign against Islam and the Koran on the basis of an impudent program.

Arrogance has had blows inflicted on it by Islam, and it is greatly terrified by the growth of the Islam-seeking wave throughout the world. However, it wants—by investing in this—to distort the face of Islam and of the Koran. Arrogance wants to tarnish the active role of Islam and to gradually divert attention to Islam with vexatious propaganda and by insulting the sanctitites of the Muslims.

It is not accidental that this book has been introduced in Britain as the book of the year. This is actually an effort to confront Islam and the Muslims.

However, fortunately the Muslims showed, with their rage and serious reaction, that they have fathomed well the depth of the plot and that they are trying to neutralize it.

This act is an insult to the most major common point among all the Muslims of the world, and arrogance has specifically made respect for Muslims its target in this attack.

A basic point which should be noted here is that Britain and the United States form one of the pillars of any mischief against Islam and the Muslims, and they overtly or covertly support and fan the flames of such mischievous acts. The duty of Muslims in the midst of this has great importance because if we remain silent or indifferent, we should expect more such incidents—and we definitely will have more of them. The role played by Britain and the United States in the midst of this should be precisely noted, and effective methods should be found to crush the inhuman and anti-Islamic characteristics of these two governments.

The range of Muslims throughout the world has intensified recently. The zealous Muslims of India and Pakistan have displayed their protest in the strongest way possible, and they have raised their cries of protest. However, it is a source of regret that instead of preparing grounds for their calm demonstrations, the police in both countries crushed the protests and sometimes acted as if they considered the protests to be against them. It is not yet clear what benefits they will reap from crushing these demonstrations. But it should be pointed out that does not benefit any government to prevent the rising voice of protest by Muslims against those who have insulted their sanctities. It is also in the governments' interests to stay out of such incidents and not prevent the intensification of the Muslims' logical protests because if they confront them in this, they will be considered accomplices of arrogance in this incident—a label which is not a source of pride for anyone.

Anti-Muslim 'Conspiracy'

LD1502152889 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 1117 GMT 15 Feb 89

[Unattributed political commentary]

[Excerpts] In the name of God, the merciful, the compassionate. While the world Muslims' strong protest in the last few days against the publication of "The Satanic Verses" in Europe and America has taken on new dimensions, the leader and founder of the Islamic Republic of Iran yesterday issued a decree on punishing those who have insulted the Koran and the prophet. [passage omitted]

For some time now world imperialism has been carrying out new mysterious cultural—and ultimately political—activities in order to tamper with the doctrinal roots of Islamic shari'ah, and with Muslims' feelings. World arrogance, using its centuries of colonialist experience, has aimed the sharp edge of its shameless onslaught at the sacred character of Islam's prophet, peace be on him and his scion.

The distortion and change of Koranic verses, the publication of anti-Islamic articles in magazines, the publication of blasphemous books, and the airing of private interviews on radio and television stations and news agency channels—aimed at discussing deceptive issues—are some examples of an extensive network of propaganda,which has appeared within the last few years simultaneously with the resurgence of Islamic thought throughout the world. This propaganda aims to sow the seeds of doubt in Muslims' minds.

The world's news and publication agencies, which are serving world arrogance, have followed two general and interrelated aims in propagating anti-Islamic issues. The aim is to weaken the Islamic faith among Muslims, thereby secularizing Muslim societies; this is then followed by an expansion of their influence and the ultimate plundering of those societies' vital resources. From the time that the old colonialism took its first steps into Muslim countries, it followed these two objectives. For that purpose European missionaries and orientalists were the first elements working towards the secularization of Muslim societies. [passage omitted]

Without a doubt the publication of a book called "The Satanic Verses" in England cannot be seen outside the framework of the two above-mentioned aims. In the writer of this book, one may see the hidden hands of world imperialism and the devious role of the arrogant powers in the activities of publication agencies which serve it.

Salman Rushdie is of Indian origin and resides in England. He is a member of the Royal Institute for British Literature; his book was declared Book of the Year. What is noteworthy is the book's form—a novel. The importance of this fact lies in the notion that it will be more attractive to readers. The writer creates a story out of the life of the prophet, thus intending to insult him in a devious manner. [passage omitted]

What makes the dimensions of this conspiracy even more clear is the U.S. support for the publication of a book which on every page insults the sacred beliefs of 1 billion Muslims throughout the world. What makes this support worse is that it is taking place under the pretext of defending freedom of expression. Worst of all is that some governments with a strong claim to Islam are silent in the face of this treacherous move and this gigantic onslaught by world arrogance on Islam and the Muslims.

It is clear to everyone that if the world's Muslims do not respond in a serious way to anti-Islamic propaganda, one may expect propaganda conspiracies by world arrogance. This is an insult to the most commonly shared belief among all the world's Muslim. For this reason the silence of some Muslim countries in the face of an insult to 1 billion Muslims and in the face of an insult to one of the greatest world religions will not be acceptable to Muslims. The widespread protests by Muslims have revealed that they have fully understood the conspiracy, and are aiming to neutralize it, so that no one may dare to insult Islam's character-building doctrine.

Musavi, Velayati on Narcotics, UN Talks

LD1502231889 Tehran IRNA in English 1515 GMT 15 Feb 89

[Text] Tehran Feb. 15, IRNA—Cabinet ministers today heard a report on involvement of international gangs in production and distribution of narcotics as well as measures taken by the anti-drug headquarters in this regard.

Prime Minister Hoseyn Musavi chairing the session, expressed hope that the Islamic Republic would soon weed out the "death merchants" in cooperation with Pakistan, Turkey and what he termed "a revolutionary government in Afghanistan".

Later in the session Foreign Minister 'Ali Akbar Velayati reported on his talks in New York on the implementation of U.N. Resolution 598.

Velayati returned home Monday after talks with the U.N. chief, and visits to London, Madrid and Muscat.

Amnestied Prisoners Hold News Conference

LD1502221789 Tehran IRNA in English 2210 GMT 15 Feb 89

[Text] Tehran, Feb. 15, IRNA—In an open letter to the French daily "LE MONDE" Wednesday, a former top member of the Baghdad based Monefeqin-e Khalq Iran (MKO) called on the West and Western mass media to reflect the realities of the Islamic revolution in Iran as they are.

Sa'id Shahsavandi, a MKO member since 1968, said "the time has come for the Western world and its mass media, particularly those committed to humane conscience and sincere to their profession to earnestly study the realities of the Islamic revolution."

Shahsavandi surrendered to Iranian forces after being shot in the leg in the aborted MKO attack on Western Iran in July, shortly after the Islamic Republic accepted U.N. Resolution 598.

He was speaking at a press conference also attended by eight other members of anti-revolutionary groups recently released under an amnesty declared by the founder of the Islamic Republic, Imam Khomeyni.

On February 8, Imam Khomeyni agreed to a petition from Information Minister Mohammad Mohammadi Reyshahri to grant general amnesty to all imprisoned members of outlawed groups excluding the 900 hardcore criminals. Shahsavandi categorically rejected MKO claims of execution of 70,000 prisoners and imprisonment of 140,000 others in Iran, saying "all these false figures are directy dictated from chief hypocrite Mas'ud Rajavi's office in Baghdad."

Of course, he said sarcastically, Rajavi has recently increased the number of executions to 80,000 and those in prison to 150,000.

"Had these figures been true, I should have seen a large number of prisoners during my detention over the past seven months," he said.

The information minister told a press conference early this week that out of 3,500 imprisoned terrorists 2,600 would be released soon under the imam's general amnesty.

Elsewhere in his letter to LE MONDE known for its anti-Islamic posture, Shahsavandi reminded that truth and false [as received] are as widely separated as the figure 900 from 150,000.

He also disclosed secret contacts between top hypocrites and U.S. congressmen in Washington a few days before the terrorists ganging up with Ba'thist Iraq launched their abortive assault on Iran, which ended up in the thousands of casualties for the assailants.

'Ali Asghar Ekbatani, a member of the Central Committee of the Marxist "Ranjbaran" group said the un-Islamic and materialistic views of political groups had only served to widen the gap between them and people.

He said, "this is not the first bitter experience of political groups in the history of our country. We time and again practiced this bitter experiences in the past but did not learn our lesson."

Hoseyn Shoja'i, a former member of Marxist Tudeh organization, said he was determined to make good on his past mistakes by serving with dignity his country.

Most of the released prisoners participating in the conference were sentenced to death penalty or life imprisonment before being pardoned during the Ten-Day Dawn (February 1-11) marking the first decade of the Islamic revolution's victory in Iran.

240 More Prisoners Released Under Amnesty

LD1602113689 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 1030 GMT 16 Feb 89

[Text] The Central News Unit reports that in the wake of the imam of ummah's decree on the amnesty for mini-group prisoners, 240 prisoners eligible for amnesty in Maragheh and Miandoab have been released and returned to the embrace of their families.

President Khamene'i To Visit SFRY, Romania
LD1502092189 Tehran IRNA in English 0715 GMT 15 Feb 89

[Text] Tehran, Feb. 15, IRNA—President 'Ali Khamene'i will pay a three-day state visit to Bucharest next week at the invitation of President Nicolae Ceausescu of Romania, said the Public Relations Office of the Presidential Bureau here Wednesday.

The president will first tour Yugoslavia next Monday for a three day official visit.

This is the first European visit of an Iranian president after the 1979 Islamic revolution.

Larijani on Relations With Socialist Countries
AU1002194489 Budapest MAGYAR HIRLAP in Hungarian 9 Feb 89 pp 1, 2

[Interview with Mohammad Javad Larijani, deputy foreign minister, by Andras Kenessei: "Iran's Relations With the Socialist World" in Tehran; date not given]

[Text] Mohammad Javad Larijani gave an interview to our special correspondent on the occasion of the 10th anniversary of the Islamic revolution in Iran. One of the civilian leaders of the revolution, Larijani knows Hungary well and has also visited here. It is a particularly interesting coincidence that, during his studies abroad, Larijani had the world famous Hungarian mathematics professor, Pal Erdos, as his teacher.

[Kenessei] Mr Deputy Foreign Minister, please tell us something about Iran's relations with the world at large.

[Larijani] After the revolution, we completely reorganized our relations with the world. I must say that in the past 10 years, we have reviewed our relations with the world according to practical considerations. We started almost from scratch, but we did have some basic concepts. We have regarded security as being our first and utmost responsibility; by this we mean self-defense in which, naturally, weapons are inevitable. At the beginning of the revolution, we thought that we could also be secure without weapons, but we had to admit that this does not work. This was a tough lesson, but we learned. We have also learned that security depends not only on weapons but also on regional and international politics.

[Kenessei] What do you mean by this?

[Larijani] We clearly determined our regional policy. The collective security of this area is one major element of this policy, and by regional security we mean that we do not want to see any foreign power here. Collective security means that none of us should be the policeman of this area. Another major principle of this policy is that all the countries and states in this region should guarantee the region's inviolability and sovereignty. Our third major principle is that we should jointly develop this area, and this, of course, requires joint development concepts. Our fourth major principle is that we need a regional market, like the one in Europe, and we would like to develop this from economic, technological, and cultural points of view. Our fifth major principle is the following: Because the Persian Gulf countries are the greatest oil producers within the OPEC, we need a common oil policy and OPEC strategy.

[Kenessei] If we now look beyond the region, what are the principles of Iranian foreign policy toward more distant countries?

[Larijani] There are countries with a big appetite. These countries want to rule us. They are not many, only about two or three. However, most countries are not like this. We maintain relations with most countries in the world on the basis of mutually beneficial interests and by mutually respecting each other, like with the West European countries, China, and Latin America. I would like to particularly stress the importance and strategic significance of our relations with Beijing. We would like the world to understand that Iran cannot be ruled. If the world understands this, nothing will hinder the development of our relations. We think that the past 10 years—which, by all accounts, has been a glorious period—have been 10 years of victory of our revolution. However, we must ask ourselves: Who were we exactly? We were some groups and activists who had no idea of how a government should work. We worked like Che Guevara and his comrades in the Amazon, or like any other underground organization.

[Kenessei] Let us talk about your relations with the socialist world.

[Larijani] Obviously, we regard our relations with our northern neighbor, the Soviet Union, as the most important. These are relations of special significance. Our economic relations with the socialist countries have developed considerably. In terms of its value, our exchange of goods in the 10 years of our revolution increased four times. Our major partners are Bulgaria, the CSSR, the GDR, Yugoslavia, and particularly Hungary, where the amount of our mutual trade is not particularly large, but the possibilities are extremely promising. We have very good relations with Hungary. We regard the mutual political understanding and further high-level meetings as extremely useful. We also consider the future to be promising. My conviction is strengthened that our relations with Hungary are progressing adequately and are further developing, and even in orders of magnitude, concerning our economic relations. Naturally, all this is only an opportunity, and we still have to do a lot in order to achieve our goals. We can open up new ways in the economic, cultural, scientific, and technological areas.

London TV Interviews Mohtashemi, Larijani, Yazdi
PM1502120089 London BBC Television Network in English
2130 GMT 13 Feb 89

[Interviews with Interior Minister Hojjat ol-Eslam 'Ali Akbar Mohtashemi (in Persian with passage by passage translation into English); Deputy Foreign Minister Dr Mohammad Larijani; and Freedom Movement leader Ibrahim Yazdi by BBC reporter David Lomax, monitored in progress in the framework of BBC 1 "Panorama" program, "Inside the Ayatollah's Iran;" date not given—recorded]

[Text] [Lomax] David Lomax from BBC television from London. How can Britain have confidence in Iran when you have been holding a British subject called Roger Cooper here in Evin Prison without trial for 3 years?

[Mohtashemi] Naturally, the British demand to release a spy without being punished is a demand which is both unfair and unjust. It demonstrates the spirit of arrogance in those who believe the world is like a jungle—a jungle in which those who have greater power and strength will rule. Roger Cooper's case is clear-cut. He has confessed, and he will be tried, and he will be punished according to Iranian law.

[Lomax] Minister, if you have any evidence against him, why is it not possible for you to publish that evidence?

[Mohtashemi] As far as Roger Cooper's case is concerned, and exposing Roger Cooper's offenses, I am surprised at you. What do you mean by "exposing?" He has gone on television and confessed everything. What more do you need?

[Lomax] Britain and Iran have started the long process of restoring relations. Ambassadors have yet to be exchanged. The release of the Western hostages in the Lebanon would help those in the regime in Tehran who are arguing for more contacts with the West. But this faction doesn't include those closest to Hizballah.

How can ambassadors be exchanged between Tehran and London while there are still Western hostages in the Lebanon held by Hizballah?

[Larijani] Well, we are not responsible for the hostages which are outside Iran, and till now we tried very hard in numerous cases to be as helpful as we can. We are not omnipotent. We can mediate, but we cannot govern.

[Lomax] But are you saying that you have exercised all the influence you possibly can on those people who may be holding hostages in the Lebanon to persuade them that it's in their interest and Iran's interest to free those hostages?

[Larijani] We tried very hard to convince them. We had partial and gradual success, never complete, never total. We should be patient, we should keep going, and we should not muddle the water [as heard] because when you deal with hostage case you want to mediate, there are plenty of things that should be kept in mind. But anyhow, we wish that all of them, including the British hostages, to be freed as soon as possible. This is our wish.

[Lomax] How much longer must the families of those people have to wait?

[Larijani] Well, if it is my wish, I would like that all of them to be free just now to go to their families. But we don't know. If I had any reliable way to convey to you when we expect, I was immediately going to do that. But if it comes a moment that we get some information about their future, we immediately transmit that to the government in London.

[Lomax] The question of Iran's ability and willingness to release hostages is the biggest obstacle to the clearing up of the revolution's postwar image. In the Majlis, the Iranian parliament, the speaker, Mr Hashemi-Rafsanjani, is the leader of one of the groups which will shape the future of the revolution after the imam's death. He argues that Iran has to rehabilitate her image if the revolution is to prosper. A concession which he supported is the licensing of political parties in the Majlis. At the moment there are debates here, and votes are taken, but there's no real opposition to the one-party line. Critics claim that even new political parties won't mean democracy.

Mr Ibrahim Yazdi was once Iran's foreign minister and an MP in the Majlis. Now, he's a member of the Freedom Movement of Iran, the only vaguely critical voice the regime has not silenced. The Freedom Movement's headquarters are being closed, their newspaper banned, and it's illegal for anyone in Iran to publish their statements. The Freedom Movement has been trying to circulate an open letter to the imam about dangers to Iran's economy. Earlier this year, seven of the executive were arrested. Three have since been held for eight months without trial.

But if you have colleagues who are in detention, if you have no access to the press, radio, or television, how can you form any kind of opposition at all?

[Yazdi] Well, that's the paradox that the government is facing, the dilemma that they are facing. From one hand they say their parties are free, they can come and register, they will give them facilities; on the other hand, our colleagues are sent to prison.

[Lomax] When are your colleagues likely to be released?

[Yazdi] We don't know. We hope they will be released unconditionally because their detention is illegal. No official charge has been brought against them yet.

[Lomax] How can a party like the Freedom Movement, for instance, function effectively as an opposition party when three of its senior members are in prison, and when it simply has no access to radio, television, or the newspapers?

[Larijani] Well, first of all, this is a party which is functioning. In fact, they are functioning more than other parties in Iran, and in the future, perhaps, they will be much more active because they have absorbed from the beginning some wealthy people among themselves, so they have even the money to run good campaign and...

[Lomax, interrupting] But three of their senior members are held in prison without charge.

[Larijani] Well, no, they have charges against themselves in doing activities, especially pertaining to the security of the state during the war, but this will be dealt with, this is allegation. I don't want to accuse them. This is some allegations or some accusations against them, but it is a judicial system will treat them. I don't think there will be any worry about that.

[Lomax] Last week the regime announced an amnesty for political prisoners in Iran. Mr Yazdi's three colleagues have at last been released. In which way would you like to see the revolution progress now?

[Yazdi] Toward what we call an "open society." For a country with a very long history of despotism, social and political tolerance is a key issue. We are learning, or people must learn, the government must learn—all of us, we are learning and we must learn—how to tolerate each other despite our differences.

[Lomax] But since the war, the regime has united in a ruthless policy towards those who directly oppose its authority. At Friday prayers in Tehran's university campus—with so many officials here there is always strict security—there is no evidence that Western concerns about human rights have any influence. The leader of the prayers today is the Chief Justice of Iran Ayatollah Musavi-Ardabili. He's flanked by other senior clerics, cabinet colleagues, and assorted bodyguards. After prayers the chief justice, clutching a rifle, addresses the faithful. His text is the need for quick justice. He's told the courts to cut red tape. His message to criminals, he says, is that between the committing of a crime and execution for it, there will be only a delay of 10 days at most. The regime claims that the reforms and penalties are needed so that revolutionary courts can pursue drug smugglers more efficiently. It seems to be a popular cause.

This photograph, publicizing the hanging of drug smugglers, appeared in a Tehran paper on the 8th of January this year. On that day there were 22 executions.

Is the best way to tackle this problem to hang drug smugglers in public and exhibit their bodies to the rush hour crowds, according to your papers here?

[Larijani] I think it has a good effect. I (?can) say it is the best because this we should calculate the dimensions according to the culture, historical background. When you hang a person in the public, it is a sign that you are really serious to punish them. It shows a degree of seriousness, according to our culture.

[Lomax] The regime's opponents say that on top of the campaign against drug smugglers, there is now a widespread purge of mojahedin, the only organized and armed opposition to the regime. Since the cease-fire, the number of executions in Iran has been steadily rising. The government claimed that they are either of convicted drug smugglers or of captured mojahedin. But there are widespread variations in the estimates of the rate of the executions. Sources from the opposition outside Iran speak of 11,000 political killings. Amnesty International puts the figure at about 1,000 and has published lists of names. The government in Iran has published no overall figure. How many executions of this kind have there been since the cease-fire?

[Larijani] I don't know exactly. I don't know. But I don't think it should be too high, because there is no rationale for that. Why should we execute them massively? There is no need for that. If they are in the prison, they are in the cage. To feed 1,000 people, 2,000 people is not a big deal. We are feeding 2 million Afghanis and more than half a million Iraqis, so I don't think there is any need for this state at this moment to execute thousands of peoples in the prison. It doesn't have any value.

[Lomax] Not thousands.

[Larijani] Hundreds. Why we need that? I mean why...

[Lomax, interrupting] Are are you saying that there have been since the cease-fire no political executions of any kind in Iran?

[Larijani] I can't say that because we had political, or I should say, more legalist term [as heard], we had people in the prison which they were accused of activities, military armed activities, against the state. These people were waiting, and they are waiting, for their proper court trial, and they may get capital punishment.

Mo'ayeri Returns From Visit to Pakistan

LD1602093589 Tehran Television Service in Persian 1600 GMT 15 Feb 89

[Text] Deputy Prime Minister Mo'ayeri, who went to Pakistan to deliver a written message from President Khamene'i to the Pakistani president, has returned to Tehran. During his visit Mr Mo'ayeri met with Pakistani President Ghulam Ishaq Khan and gave him Mr Khamene'i's written message dealing with the latest developments in Afghanistan and the need to help the suffering people of that country.

The deputy prime minister also met with Benazir Bhutto and gave her a verbal message from Prime Minister Musavi regarding the strengthening of Afghan mujahidin unity and further bilateral cooperation in this respect. During his stay in Islamabad, Mr Mo'ayeri also met leaders of the seven- and eight-party Afghan mujahidin organizations and discussed the strengthening of their unity and respecting their joint agreement, particularly following the departure of Soviet forces from that country.

Hashemi-Rafsanjani Addresses Bazaar Merchants

LD1402141789 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 1030 GMT 14 Feb 89

[Excerpts] Majlis Speaker Hashemi-Rafsanjani addressed a meeting of bazaar merchants from the whole country which was held this morning at Martyr Motahhari College. We end our newscast with excerpts of his speech which have just become available.

The Majlis speaker noted the country's various problems and the need for devising solutions for them. Among the most important problems are those of high prices, distribution, and a remedy for shortcomings in meeting the people's needs. He said: We have numerous problems due to the revolution, the war, and the economic embargo. In each area, planning must be done and the origins of the problems must be found in order to direct the country toward a point at which the revolution's aspirations may be met and the people's problems may be resolved.

He continued: One of the country's most important problems in this regard is high prices, shortages, and the unhealthy atmosphere that prevails in the place of trade and work. You bazaar merchants can be effective in resolving this problem. Through coordination with the government, legislators, and related forces, you can resolve these problems.

The Majlis speaker stressed that an accord between bazaar merchants and officials is necessary for combating high prices. He said: This acute problem must be resolved because the present conditions are intolerable. He referred to those involved in the management of such affairs, saying that these individuals were involved on the front line of struggles from the beginning of the Islamic movement. They are in fact the pioneers of the revolution and are now fulfilling their duties. He stated that it will not be the first time the bazaar merchants have helped to resolve problems. We greatly benefited from the efforts of the guilds and bazaar merchants at the beginning of our struggles. [passage omitted]

The Majlis speaker said some of the shortages are normal and some are not, and that shortages can be remedied. He added: The basic solution is for the bazaar traders and merchants to carry on business in a natural and sound manner. To attain that goal much work must be done. Hashemi-Rafsanjani noted that the system, with the approval of his eminence the imam, has decided to resolve this problem which has a special priority. He said: The issue of high prices is our next concern in the Expediency Discernment Council. It comes right after the fight against drugs. As of now we are formulating a comprehensive law aimed at resolving the problem of high prices. We are considering the kind of punishments we want to include in that law, which will be submitted to the executive officials following its completion. [passage omitted]

In another part of his speech the Majlis speaker blamed the profiteers, hoarders, and dealers on the black market as the main culprits for rising prices. He said: Collectively, these have inflicted on us the problem of unreasonably high prices. This is indeed very difficult for our people, in particular for employees and government employees. Society must consider these people's conditions. He added: The solution before us is to increase production and to leave the details to the producers. [passage omitted]

He continued: We must take serious steps, and the government is carrying out its main duties. He said: Within the factories there are corrupt elements which are checked and punished by the government. The issue of high prices is a source of hope for global arrogance. [passage omitted]

In conclusion Hashemi-Rafsanjani noted that presently the people are aware of the country's problems. He said: At the moment a period of 2-3 years for reconstruction and for resolving the people's problems is acceptable.

Islamic Conference Urges Participation

LD1402200389 Tehran IRNA in English 1726 GMT 14 Feb 89

[Text] Tehran, Feb. 14, IRNA—In a letter to Foreign Minister 'Ali Akbar Velayati, secretary-general of Organization of the Islamic Conference (OIC) Hamed al-Gabid urged for Iran's active participation in the organization.

The message was submitted to First Deputy Foreign Minister 'Ali Mohammad Besharati by Al-Gabid's envoy Seyyed Refaqat, here Tuesday.

Besharati, too, called for further cooperation between OIC and the Islamic Republic of Iran.

The OIC envoy will leave Tehran tomorrow.

Civil Rights Group Urges Free Political Activity

LD1502232489 Tehran IRNA in English 1710 GMT 15 Feb 89

[Text] Tehran, Feb. 15, IRNA—A civil rights group stressed that opposition groups loyal to the Constitution must be given the right to carry out peaceful and legitimate political activities.

"Opposition elements—not opponents of the regime—must be allowed to engage in political activity," said Akbar Zarineh-Baf a member of the Central Council of the Association for the Defence of Freedom and Sovereignty of the Iranian Nation (ADFS).

"The government has concluded that an open political climate is necessary to eliminate existing problems," he added. "Now that the war has fortunately come to an end we must move towards the revolution's demands." He was answering questions at the group's first press conference since its office was closed down eight months ago.

Established in March 1986 and led by Iran Freedom Movement [IFM] leader Mehdi Bazargan, the association has brought together many senior liberal political figures to stress "on the implementation of the constitution and defend civil liberties."

It does not consider itself a political party and would not field candidates in future elections. Its members can individually stand in elections but would loose their Central Committee membership if they win.

It is seeking official recognition according to the parties law which came into force on 31 December.

Bazargan and a number of other IFM leaders, who held their own press conference on Sunday, were present but sat among the audience.

Others speaking at the press conference, held with the Interior Ministry's permission were Central Committee members Asadollah Mobasheri and Nur 'Ali Tabandeh, and association member Yadollah Rowshan Ardalan.

They welcomed the release of two Central Committee members from prison on the 10th anniversary of the revolution and wished to see the day that "no political and ideological prisoners of conscience" exist in the Islamic Republic.

Pakistan

U.S., British Envoys Summoned Over Rushdie Book

BK1602114089 Hong Kong AFP in English 1115 GMT 16 Feb 89

[Text] Islamabad, Feb 16 (AFP)—The Pakistani Government called the U.S. and British ambassadors to the Foreign Ministry Thursday [16 February] to convey its concern over the publication of a book Muslims condemn as blasphemous, a spokesman said.

The spokesman said that Pakistan's ambassadors in London and Washington were also "already in touch with officials in this regard."

The book "The Satanic Verses," written by Indian-born British writer Salman Rushdie, has caused an uproar in the Islamic world. Iran's leader Ayatollah Khomeyni has placed a three-million-dollar prize on Mr. Rushdie's head, saying his book has insulted the Prophet Muhammad and Islam.

Six people died here Sunday and several were injured in a demonstration against the book. The government has come under pressure by the opposition to persuade Britain and the United States to stop its publication.

"If our demarche is not received and the book of Rushdie is not proscribed, we will raise the issue at the Islamic foreign minister's conference in Riyadh next month," the spokesman said.

He said the Pakistani Government was considering taking legal action if constitutional provisions in Britain and the United States prevented those countries from banning the book.

Ambassadors from Islamic countries here held discussions with Foreign Ministry officials Thursday to formulate a common strategy on how to compel the publishers to withdraw the book, he added.

"The Satanic Verses" was published in Britain last year and won a literary prize there. It is due to go on sale in the United States next week.

The spokesman said Muslim countries may ban Mr. Rushdie's entry as well as all books published by his publishers.

Prime Minister Benazir Bhutto, while condemning the book, said the protest was in fact meant to destabilize her government.

Scholars See 'Zionist Conspiracy' in Rushdie Book

BK1602025289 Islamabad Domestic Service in Urdu 0200 GMT 16 Feb 89

[Text] Prominent religious scholars, including those belonging to international Islamic organizations, have condemned the publication of the sacrilegious book entitled "The Satanic Verses." Addressing a news conference in Lahore, they said the publication of this book is a Zionist conspiracy against Muslims. However, these scholars said that causing damage to public property and foreign missions is unpatriotic and is contrary to the spirit of Islam. They also condemned those elements which are using this issue to create unrest in the country.

A strike was observed in Mardan and Khairpur yesterday to protest against the publication of the book.

The amir of the Jamiyat-i Islami said that the purpose behind the publication of this book is to hurt the feelings of Muslims. Addressing a news conference at Faisalabad, he said this is a Zionist conspiracy against the religious sentiments of Muslims.

Curfew Lifted From Faisalabad Areas 15 Feb
BK1502142489 Islamabad Domestic Service in Urdu 1400 GMT 15 Feb 89

[Text] In Faisalabad, the curfew has been lifted from all areas of the city. The district magistrate told Radio Pakistan representative that, however, the restrictions under Section 144 [banning assembly of five and more persons] will remain in effect in the whole district for 2 months. Schools and colleges in the city will reopen on Saturday.

Ishaq Khan, Bhutto Hail Soviet Withdrawal
BK1502161989 Islamabad Domestic Service in Urdu 1500 GMT 15 Feb 89

[Text] The president, Ghulam Ishaq Khan, and the prime minister, Benazir Bhutto, have said the total withdrawal of the Soviet troops from Afghanistan is a historic event. They paid tribute to the courage of the Afghan people who valiantly struggled against foreign occupation. This also supports Pakistan's principled policy for a political solution to the issue.

In a message in Islamabad today, the president praised all those countries who gave their total moral and material support to the just struggle of the Afghan people. The president commended the Soviet leadership for realizing that the military intervention in Afghanistan was wrong and should be corrected. He said this decision to pull out Soviet troops from Afghanistan was made by President Gorbachev. This decision is a tribute to his statesmanship and wisdom.

In her statement, Prime Minister Benazir Bhutto has said the total withdrawal of the Soviet troops from Afghanistan is a historic moment for the valiant Afghan Muslims and freedom lovers all over the world. Paying tribute to the Afghan people Ms Benazir Bhutto said these valiant people have made the impossible possible and today they are successfully liberating their country from foreign domination. The Afghan people have proved that those who want freedom should be prepared make great sacrifices.

The prime minister said the Afghan nation has made great sacrifices to protect its freedom. During the holy war more than 10 lakh people became martyrs and more than 30 lakh people had to leave their homes and seek refuge in Pakistan.

She said the Soviet withdrawal is a matter of pride for the people of Pakistan, who fully supported their Afghan brethren during their difficult struggle, and now they can see the results of their efforts. With their Afghan brethren, the people of Pakistan are thankful to God for making the just struggle of the Afghan people successful in order to protect Islamic values and the freedom of their country.

Muslim League Leader Charged With Murder
BK1602102289 Hong Kong AFP in English 1007 GMT 16 Feb 89

[Text] Karachi, Pakistan, Feb 16 (AFP)—An opposition leader was arrested here Thursday [16 February] and charged with murder following the death of a 15-year-old boy in clashes between opposition and ruling party supporters, police said.

Bostan Ali Hoti, president of the Karachi branch of the opposition Pakistan Muslim League, said after his arrest that he had acted in self-defense when supporters of the ruling Pakistan People's Party (PPP) attacked him.

He made no reference to the boy's death.

PPP sources denied the allegation and said the Muslim League was responsible for the clash. The Muslim League is the main party in the opposition coalition, the Islamic Democratic Alliance.

It was the first time a political leader has been arrested since Prime Minister Benazir Bhutto took power on December 1.

Several people were injured and admitted to hospital following the clash late Wednesday and early Thursday between PPP supporters and backers of the Muslim League, hospital sources said.

It was not clear what triggered the clash between the two groups.

The ruling party and the opposition have been at odds in this southern port city, the capital of Sind Province, over a variety of issues, including that of Pakistanis stranded in Bangladesh and government plans to repatriate them.

Muslim League supporters have also demonstrated this week here and throughout Pakistan to protest against the book "The Satanic Verses" by Indian-born British writer Salman Rushdie.

Many Muslims consider the novel "blasphemous" and Iranian spiritual leader Ayatollah Khomeyni has ordered the "execution" of Mr. Rushdie.

Italian Daily Interviews Benazir Bhutto
PM1502094489 Rome LA REPUBBLICA in Italian 12-13 Feb 89 p 11

[Interview with Prime Minister Benazir Bhutto by Edgardo Bartoli in Rawalpindi; date not given]

[Excerpts] Rawalpindi—[Passage omitted] [Bartoli] Last week Soviet Foreign Minister Shevardnadze visited Islamabad to ask you not to give the mujahidin any more weapons, and you said no. Why—if Moscow offered in exchange not to give the Kabul regime any more weapons?

[Bhutto] The Western press has speculated a great deal on this episode. I will just say this: As far as we Pakistanis are concerned, the meeting with the Soviet minister was excellent. Our assessments of the current situation may have differed, of course, but the talks went beyond the Afghan issue. We discussed what will happen after the Soviet withdrawal and went even beyond that. We cannot be indifferent to the chaos that could occur in Afghanistan in the future. If their camps do not produce, our economy will suffer the repercussions. Apart from all the other human and moral considerations, we are the ones who are suffering the immediate consequences of what is happening in that neighboring country. [passage omitted]

[Bartoli] It is strange that concerning your Afghan neighbor one speaks of agricultural economics, while with the Indian neighbor the talk is of nuclear economics. When Indian Prime Minister Rajiv Gandhi came here it was a historic event and you agreed not to attack each other's nuclear establishments in the event of war. This being so, could you not simply have decided not to wage war on each other any more?

[Bhutto] War can be ruled out by a nonaggression pact, by sweeping everything under the carpet, so to speak. Instead, we had to acknowledge that contentious issues do remain, and it would have been pure hypocrisy to forge a treaty ruling out war. It is better to build confidence gradually, by settling unresolved issues one by one in the spirit of the Stockholm accords. We sincerely want to achieve relations of friendship and cooperation with India, while we realistically acknowledge that mistrust and suspicion still exist between our two countries. It will not be an easy task, but we can say that a good start has been made. [passage omitted]

[Bartoli] The transition between Ziaul Haq's dictatorship and the present democracy has been surprisingly calm. In your biography, which has become a bestseller, you present a distressing reconstruction of your father's trial. Nevertheless, it seems there are no unsettled scores with the past and no problems about needing dismantle and reassemble anything.

[Bhutto] No, in fact there are major problems such as the ethnic divisions, the need to unify the country, social issues, intolerance, inflation, shortage of economic resources... The transition has been gentle, yes, apart from a few jolts... Actually, the transition took place in two stages: when Ziaul Haq died last August, and when power was transferred after the November elections. The reason why both stages of the transition were calm is that the Armed Forces, which could have rejoined the power struggle, exerted all their influence to guarantee the transfer of power to the people's elected representatives.

In the first stage of the transition there were inexplicable occurrences such as sudden floods—nobody knew why the people affected were not forewarned—and there were terrible killings in the southern provinces. These episodes were thoroughly exploited by Ziaul Haq's supporters. However, the supporters of free elections prevailed. After the elections there were conspiracies to invalidate the people's vote, and again they failed. The plan was to provoke a crisis in the hopes of an intervention by the Armed Forces.

[Bartoli] Does the possibility of such an intervention no longer exist? According to many observers, there is still a chance of an intervention by the Armed Forces—in the event of the Americans' cutting off economic aid in retaliation for Pakistan's nuclear plans, a possibility not mentioned before because Pakistan was indispensable to its Afghan policy.

[Bhutto] Actually these are three separate issues: first, the possibility of the military's return to power; second, what Pakistan's nuclear plans really are; and, third, the possibility of a cut in American aid. These three issues are not necessarily interconnected. One can say that if there were another military intervention it would ultimately and completely destabilize the country and cause its total disintegration.

[Bartoli] So, does such a possibility still exist or not?

[Bhutto] I will just say that if the Army does intervene again, Pakistan's justification for existence would disappear. Its very existence is predicated on creating a confederal union to guarantee social, economic, and political rights. Ziaul Haq's long dictatorship exhausted the country's patience. The present government is the only one capable of providing hope for genuine national integration. If this possibility of uniting the nation is undermined, any other force would be incapable of performing the task and could only accelerate Pakistan's disintegration. It would be a tragedy.

Therefore, I would say that even though military regimes did predominate in the past, the lesson we have learned is blindingly clear: It is not only the loss of Bangladesh, for which Ziaul Haq consoled himself by believing that Bangladesh was, after all, far from Pakistan's heart. Now we have a compact Pakistan that cannot be subjugated in a colonial fashion by martial law. Only crazy politicians who think more of their personal power than of the

country's existence could consider a return to dictatorship and provoke a crisis. For their part, the military have displayed patriotic feelings and in the upper echelons there are men of great and proven integrity. This is what counts.

Let us move on to Pakistan's nuclear plans. Our government is aware of Western anxieties. However, the West in turn must realize that no country likes to feel humiliated. So when Pakistan hears people say: Listen, be good and tell us immediately what you are doing, otherwise you are in trouble—then our national pride is hurt. Of course, every country is free to pursue whatever policy it likes, as long as it accepts responsibility and deals with the consequences. This also applies to the nuclearization policy.

However, this is not our policy, because we have never believed, and do not believe, in nuclear proliferation. We do not want arsenals in our region. We do not want an arms race. We are ready to talk, to take account of others' requirements, and to present our own demands. Our nuclear program is totally peaceful: It is a research program, and as far as this region is concerned, we are willing to sit down and talk. [passage omitted]

President on Relations With Turkey, Nuclear Arms

NC1402153389 Istanbul CUMHURIYET in Turkish 10 Feb 89 p 12

["Exclusive" interview with President Ghulam Ishaq Khan by CUMHURIYET correspondent Zafer Arapkirli in Islamabad; date not given]

[Excerpts] [Arapkirli] What is the reason for the continuing durable and friendly relations between Turkey and Pakistan?

[Ishaq Khan] Pakistan and Turkey have very close ties of confidence, culture, and history. Both countries have similar approaches to international problems. We have tried to help each other, particularly in times of crises. Our friendship has existed for a very long time. I believe these are the most important reasons for the durable and steady friendship between the two countries.

[Arapkirli] Could Turkey's full membership in the EEC contribute toward the two countries' relations?

[Ishaq Khan] We shall be very happy to see Turkey as a member of the EEC. In that capacity, Turkey will become a bridge between the EEC and the countries which are Turkey's friends. You will recall that Turkey and Pakistan already are members of the Economic Cooperation organization, which also includes Iran. I believe that Turkey's membership in the EEC will be useful from the point of view of relations between the two organizations.

[Arapkirli] As a strong country in your region and an influential side in the Afghan problem, how do you foresee the future of the Afghan problem?

[Ishaq Khan] You already are aware that the Soviet foreign minister visited Pakistan a short time ago. A communique was issued after those talks noting that both sides desire a political solution. They reiterated their view that a broad-based government should be set up and we restated our view that a consultative council should be convened for the purpose of establishing a provisional government. We want a lasting solution that establishes Afghanistan as an independent Islamic country. There continues to be a difference of views between Pakistan and the Soviet Union. I hope that the two sides will agree on a solution that will serve Afghanistan's long-term interests.

[Arapkirli] Let us turn to Pakistan's domestic politics. You presided over the Senate during General Ziaul Haq's era. You are the president now and working with Prime Minister Benazir Bhutto. Are there any problems between you? Can the reconciliation between you and the prime minister last?

[Ishaq Khan] Forgive me, but part of your question is making an assumption. My election as the head of the Senate, and now as president, was realized in accordance with our Constitution. Likewise, Benazir Bhutto's election as prime minister was realized in accordance with the Constitution and through free, fair, and democratic elections. A question of "reconciliation" never existed. There is no reason to obstruct the democratic procedure. [passage omitted]

[Arapkirli] Your country maintains that its nuclear capability serves peace, not war. As the question of rearmament, particularly nuclear rearmament, is the most important subject of international debate, do you believe that peace can be established through nuclear force?

[Ishaq Khan] Your question also is based on assumptions. Pakistan has assured the world that its nuclear strength is for peaceful purposes only. Other countries must embrace this concept in order to prevent nuclear proliferation in the world and in the region. This has nothing to do with our nuclear program, which we have put into effect to resolve the problem of our insufficient power supply. We plan to use nuclear energy to generate electricity. We also plan to use nuclear energy in the agricultural field and in the pharmaceutical industry. We believe that peace can be established through nuclear and conventional disarmament.

[Arapkirli] Pakistan purchased certain components from Turkey for its nuclear reactors in the past. However, this has been halted. Where are you getting these components at the present time?

[Ishaq Khan] The materials which cannot be produced in our country are acquired from sources which manufacture them. We purchased electronic material from Turkey in the past. However, we are now able to manufacture them ourselves. We also are able to export a number of these components.

At the conclusion of the interview, President Ghulam Ishaq Khan conveyed his best wishes to President Evren. He said: "I wish our esteemed brothers well-being, prosperity, and progress. I hope our friendship will be strengthened further each passing day."

Sri Lanka

Reportage on Election, Initial Results

Violence Reported

BK1502153889 Hong Kong AFP in English 1503 GMT 15 Feb 89

[By M.R. Narayan Swamy]

[Text] Colombo, Feb 15 (AFP)—Sri Lanka's first parliamentary elections in 11 years Wednesday left at least 67 people dead and dozens wounded in widespread violence mostly blamed on anti-government Sinhalese rebels.

At least 36 people, including a senior election official, six security personnel and four voters, were killed Wednesday, while election-related violence claimed 31 lives late Tuesday, police said. Dozens of people were wounded in arson and bomb attacks Wednesday.

It was the bloodiest general election ever in Sri Lanka, where more than 10,000 people have died in Tamil separatist and Sinhalese rebel violence since mid-1983.

Deputy Election Commissioner Lakshman Perera told AGENCE FRANCE-PRESSE that at least 60 per cent of the 9.43 million voters cast their ballots to elect 225 members to parliament from among 1,396 candidates.

"There has been heavy polling in the north and east," which are Tamil areas, he said. "So the island-wide average should be 60-65 per cent, or maybe more."

The violence was largely blamed on the anti-government Sinhalese militant Janatha Vimukti Peramuna (JVP, or People's Liberation Front), which Tuesday declared a two-day "curfew" and issued death threats to voters and candidates.

But the threats were largely ignored in and around Colombo as well as in major towns and cities, though voting was reportedly poor in outlying areas in the island's central and southern provinces—known JVP strongholds.

The two main parties contesting the polls are the ruling United National Party (UNP), which came to power in 1977, and the opposition Sri Lanka Freedom Party (SLFP). Also in the fray were 17 other political parties and groups.

The election was held under heavy security after the JVP and the Liberation Tigers of Tamil Eelam (LTTE) threatened to sabotage it and killed 14 candidates and hundreds of political activists during the past month.

But JVP hit squads defied the security measures—involving about 30,000 policemen, 40,000 defence personnel and 45,000-50,000 Indian troops—and shot dead 28 people across the strife-torn island nation Wednesday.

Security forces also killed six JVP activists Wednesday. Two JVP activists died when a bomb they were carrying exploded prematurely in southern Kalutara District, police said.

Four of the JVP victims were voters and four were SLFP supporters. In Colombo, JVP gunmen killed a former district minister's son and ambushed a UNP nominee's car, killing a bodyguard, two women relatives and two policemen.

A senior election officer and an assistant transporting ballot boxes were killed when their vehicle was ambushed in southern Kamburupitiya village after the vote ended, officials here said.

In the island's south, JVP members attacked a polling station, killing an election official, an assistant and a soldier in one attack. Previous reports had described the soldier as a member of the home guards.

Also killed were an army officer, another soldier and a UNP backer.

JVP gunmen torched an election booth in central Kandy and exploded several bombs across the island, wounding dozens, in apparent attempts to scare away voters. In most areas, balloting resumed after brief interruption.

Voting lasted nine hours at the 8,070 polling booths manned by about 80,000 public servants.

Polling was brisk and heavy in the Tamil and Muslim areas of the northern and eastern provinces, where Indian troops are deployed under a 1987 peace pact which sought to end the Tamil separatist campaign, officials said.

Indian soldiers reportedly went from house to house in parts of northern Jaffna District, a former LTTE stronghold, requesting people to vote. Members of anti-LTTE groups also made similar appeals, Tamil sources here said.

Counting of votes is to begin later Wednesday and the first results are due early Thursday, which has been declared a public holiday.

In overnight violence, JVP gunmen in the south opened fire on a bus carrying Buddhist pilgrims, killing two men, and gunned down nine UNP and SLFP activists in nearby villages, police sources said.

In other incidents, six people were killed in Kandy while police found six bullet-ridden bodies at Panadura, 25 kilometres (15 miles) south of here.

The JVP shot dead two people near Colombo and six in North-Western Province, the sources said.

Officials said in several areas in the south, young men linked to the JVP blockaded roads by felling trees to block voters' movements. Many policemen and soldiers clearing them came under attack.

The JVP and LTTE had issued similar boycott calls for the December 19 presidential election, which was marked by low turnout and violence which left at least 30 people on the day of balloting.

The UNP, after coming to power in 1977, extended the term of parliament by six years through a 1982 referendum. Former President Junius Jayewardene dissolved Parliament on December 20, a day after Mr. Premadasa was elected president.

Curfew Declared

BK1502165689 Hong Kong AFP in English 1653 GMT 15 Feb 89

[Text] Colombo, Feb 15 (AFP)—The Sri Lankan Government Wednesday clamped on an island-wide 21-hour curfew beginning Thursday in a move apparently aimed at preventing post-election violence.

At least 67 people died in the past two days in killings related to parliamentary elections held Wednesdayu in Sri Lanka.

A brief official communique said the curfew would go into effect at 9:00 am [0330 GMT] Thursday, which has been declared a government holiday, and end at 6:00 am [0030 GMT] the following day.

The announcement said the curfew had been ordered under the Public Safety Act and would be enforced by security forces.

The communique did not say why the government was imposing a curfew, but official sources here said it was to prevent a possible outbreak of violence following Wednesday's general elections.

It was Sri Lanka's first election to its 225-seat Parliament in 11 years.

Counting of votes began late Wednesday and the first results were due early Thursday, election officials said.

LTTE: Elections 'Farce'

BK1602030089 Hong Kong AFP in English 0250 GMT 16 Feb 89

[Text] Colombo, Feb 16 (AFP)—Sri Lanka's dominant Tamil rebel group Thursday dubbed the country's general elections as a "farce" and vowed to continue its separatist campaign.

The Liberation Tigers of Tamil Eelam (LTTE) said in a statement received here from London that "the fraudulent general elections conducted (Wednesday) with the help of the Indian occupation army is nothing but a farce."

India has 45,000-50,000 troops in the island's Northern and Eastern Provinces under a 1987 peace pact with Sri Lanka which sought to end a bloody Tamil separatist campaign.

The statement accused Indian troops and anti-LTTE groups of forcing Tamils to vote in the election to the 225-seat parliament. The attempts, it said, were "foiled on several occasions by LTTE intervention."

The LTTE vows "to continue the liberation struggle with renewed strength and vigour by launching counter attacks against the Indian army and its quisling groups," it added.

The LTTE, the most powerful of six major Tamil guerrilla groups, has repudiated the 1987 accord and refused to surrender arms. In October 1987, the Indian troops launched a campaign to disarm the group.

Since then, more than 700 soldiers and over 2,000 suspected guerrillas have died in fighting.

The 1987 pact has been accepted by other militant and moderate Tamil groups—which the LTTE calls quislings.

UNP Has 53.1 Percent

BK1602080489 Delhi Domestic Service in English 0730 GMT 16 Feb 89

[Text] In Sri Lanka, the ruling United National Party is heading for a landslide win in the parliamentary polls held yesterday. With counting completed in half of the counting divisions of the country, on the cumulative national percentage the UNP has got 53.1 percent of the 28.3 lakh votes counted so far. This is way ahead of its nearest rival, the SLFP, which has got 31.1 percent. Of the 182 divisions, counting has been completed in 96.

The UNP has fared much better in all the counting divisions in the south of the country, conceding only two divisions of Attanagalla and Panadurai to SLFP. In the Jaffna electoral division, the independent group representing EROS has bagged 4 out of 11 divisions. In the east, the Sri Lanka Muslim Congress has bagged two divisions—Sammanturai in Amparai District and Kalkudah in Batticaloa. The TULF has come first in Pandiruppu.

In a bid to prevent any possible post-election violence, the Sri Lankan Government yesterday announced a 21-hour island-wide curfew which began at 0900 this morning.